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THE FCRA
FRACAS

MONEY 8

E-COMMERCE FIRMS SELL GOODS WORTH
\$4 BN IN FIRST WEEK OF FESTIVE SALE

SPORTS 12

RASHID'S MAGICAL SPELL POWERS
SRH TO 88-RUN WIN OVER DELHI

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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NITHYA TO
HEADLINE A
TELUGU WEB SERIES

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LENDERS TO CREDIT INTEREST ON
INTEREST TO BORROWERS BY NOV 5

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that lenders have been directed to credit in the accounts of eligible borrowers by November 5 the difference between compound interest and simple interest collected on loans of up to ₹2 crore during the RBI's loan moratorium scheme. The Ministry of Finance has said that after crediting this amount, the lending institutions would claim reimbursement from the Central government. In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the government has said that the ministry has issued a scheme as per which lending institutions would credit this amount in the accounts of borrowers for the 6-month loan moratorium period which was announced following the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

UNLOCK5 GUIDELINES ISSUED IN SEPT
TO REMAIN IN FORCE TILL NOV-END

The Unlock5 guidelines that last month allowed reopening of cinema halls, swimming pools for sports training and gatherings with restrictions, will be valid till November 30, the Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered. "The MHA issued an order today to extend the guidelines for re-opening, issued on 30.09.2020, to remain in force upto 30.11.2020," a Press Information Bureau release said. The ministry, in September, had allowed resumption of cinema halls with 50 per cent occupancy, international air travel as permitted by the government and gatherings in closed spaces with 50 per cent strength, not exceeding 200 people; all these activities will function as before until further order.

FARMERS' BODIES ANNOUNCE
NATL ROAD BLOCKADE ON NOV 5

Various farmers' outfits protesting against the new farm laws of the Centre on Tuesday announced a nationwide road blockade on November 5. At a meeting held in New Delhi, it was further decided that there shall be a complete coordination of various farmers' outfits "to spearhead the fight against three anti-farmer, anti-people farm laws and the Centre's proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020". Major farmer federations with over 500 constituent organisations, including the entire working group and state chapter representatives of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) and the federations led by farmer leaders Balbir Singh Rajewal of BKU (Rajewal) and Haryana BKU chief Gurnam Singh, met at Delhi.

ACTRESS VIJAYASHANTHI MEETS
KISHAN, TO JOIN BJP BEFORE NOV 10

TPCC campaign committee chairperson Vijayashanthi is likely to join the Bharatiya Janata Party before November 10. According to sources, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy held discussions in this regard with Vijayashanthi at her residence on Monday. Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar also met her at her residence a few days ago, it is learnt. Vijayashanthi has not been taking active part in TPCC activities since the party's drubbing in the Assembly elections. She has confined herself to issuing statements, including those praising the Modi government.



Diversified
product portfolio
to reduce virus
slowdown impact
on chemical
players: Icra

8



Arts can create
climate of
sensitivity

5



While parties play
game of
one-upmanship,
Polavaram suffers

2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:
Ashwin & Shukla Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi : Dwadashi: 12:53 pm
Nakshatram: Punarvashada: 09:11 am
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start
any important work)
Rahukalam: 11:59 am - 01:25 pm
Yamagandam: 07:42 am - 09:08 am
Varjyam: 07:54 pm - 09:42 pm
Gulika: 10:33 am - 11:59 am
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: NIL
Abhijit Muhurtham: NIL

HYDERABAD
WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly sunny
Temp: 29/19
Humidity: 57%
Sunrise: 06:13 am
Sunset: 05:46 pm
Current Weather Conditions
Updated October 27, 2020 5:00 PM

Dynastic corruption a
political culture in
some states: PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday battled for strong action against "dynastic corruption", saying it has become a part of the political culture in some states and has emerged as a formidable challenge that is hollowing out the country. Inaugurating a three-day national conference on vigilance and anti-corruption organised by the CBI, the prime minister said that inaction in a single corruption case forms the foundation for future scams and corruption.

"Dynastic corruption, as in corruption transferred from one generation to another, has grown over decades to become



a formidable challenge before the country," he said.

"During the past decades, we have seen that when one generation of corrupt people is not punished adequately, its subsequent generations indulge in corruption with more impunity," he said.

When a generation sees that a corrupt person in the family is let off without or very little punishment, their courage to indulge in corrupt activities grows manifold, he said.

2

US says it will
stand by India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

China's military belligerence in eastern Ladakh and Indo-Pacific region figured prominently during the third edition of the 2+2 strategic dialogue between India and the US with Washington strongly affirming that it stands firmly with New Delhi in its efforts to defend sovereignty as the two sides vowed to ramp up their security ties, and inked the strategic defence pact, BECA.

During the high-level dialogue, which was led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar from the Indian side and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper from the US side, the two countries also denounced the use of terrorist proxies and asked Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of all terror attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai, Uri, and Pathankot.

2

Economy reviving, but GDP
growth may be negative: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said there were visible signs of revival in the economy but the GDP growth may be in the negative zone or near zero in the current fiscal.

She said the economy saw a contraction in the April-June quarter, but demand has picked up in the festival season. Speaking at the India Energy Forum of CERAAWeek, she said infrastructure, fintech and all employment generating and asset creating industries would be priority sectors for the government.

Sitharaman further said recent data indicates revival in the economy, with PMI number being the highest since 2012.

"Which sort of indicates that the revival is there which is going to be steady and sus-

Sitharaman further said recent data indicates revival in the economy, with PMI number being the highest since 2012.



tainable revival. If that sustainable revival is going to happen between quarter three and quarter four, we expect that the overall GDP growth... (is) going to be in the negative or near zero this time," she said.

India will regain the tag of the fastest growing major economy next year, she asserted.

The Indian economy had contracted by a huge 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter,

hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

Sitharaman said a "very firm lockdown" was imposed beginning March 25, with the government putting lives before livelihood to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

"We had a contraction which happened during the first quarter and post which the unlocking has been steadily happening and we can see the revival now..." she said.

2

Now outsiders allowed
to buy land in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Urban land and immovable property in Jammu and Kashmir can now be purchased by residents of any state, with the Centre notifying a new law to integrate the Union territory with the rest of the country. Earlier, only residents of Jammu and Kashmir were allowed to purchase land in the state. But the Centre's move in August last year, scrapping the state's special powers under the Article 370 of the Constitution and its bifurcation into two Union Territories, paved the way for the change.

In a gazette notification, the Centre has omitted the phrase "permanent resident of the state" from Section 17 of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, which deals with the disposal of land in the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha clarified that the new law

does not apply to agricultural land.

"I want to say this forcefully and with full responsibility that agricultural land has been kept reserved for farmers; no outsider will come on those lands," said the Lieutenant-Governor.

"The industrial areas that we have defined -- we want that like the rest of the country, industries too come here so that Jammu and Kashmir also develops and employment is generated," he said at a press Conference. The move, however, set off a stream of protests from the local political parties.

"Unacceptable amendments to the land ownership laws of JK. Even the tokenism of domicile has been done away with when purchasing non agricultural land and transfer of agricultural land has been made easier. JK is now up for sale and poorer small land holding owners will suffer," former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted.

COVID is declining in India,
except for 2 to 3 states: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The COVID-19 pandemic in India is showing a declining trend, except for two to three states, the government said on Tuesday, noting that it is "particularly noteworthy" vis-a-vis some countries in the northern hemisphere where a severe increase in the intensity of the virus' spread is being seen.

The situation related to the pandemic in the world is particularly concerning and it has been seen that countries of



much greater economic capability and per capita income, and having a good health system can succumb to a huge

This decline is particularly noteworthy because in other countries of the northern hemisphere there is a severe increase in the intensity of pandemic

second peak, Chairperson of the National Task Force on COVID-19, V K Paul, told a press conference.

"This must be a lesson for all of us," Paul, who is also the NITI Aayog member for health, said.

"We are very fortunate that our trend is in the opposite direction. We are fortunate that today we are showing a decline of the (COVID-19) pandemic, except in two or three states. This decline is particularly noteworthy because in other countries of the northern hemisphere there is a severe increase in the intensity of pandemic," he said.

2

Facebook India
policy head quits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facebook executive Ankhi Das, whose name came up in a recent controversy over alleged bias by the social networking giant in dealing with hate speeches, has resigned from the company. A statement by Ajith Mohan, Facebook India's Managing Director, said: "Ankhi has decided to step down from her role in Facebook to pursue her interest in public service. Ankhi was one of our earliest employees in India and played an instrumental role in the growth of the company and its services over the last nine years."

2

'Revenue Dept shielding
tainted officials'DURGAPRASAD SUNKU
■ HYDERABAD

For sarkari babus, being caught red-handed by ACB sleuths while accepting bribe is one thing and getting actually punished for their offence is quite another and often avoidable.

The quiescence of this is the state of affairs in the Revenue Department, which has been notorious for the sheer level of corruption in its ranks. According to data furnished by the Vigilance Department in response to an

According to data, in just one wing of the Vigilance Department there are 20 pending cases pertaining to the Revenue Department/Secretariat.

RTI query, in just one wing of the Vigilance Department there are 20 pending cases pertaining to the Revenue

Department/Secretariat. There are three other such wings where many more cases are pending.

The Revenue Department has been shielding its tainted officials, according to the Forum for Good Governance. The forum's secretary, M Padmanabha Reddy, has sought immediate attention of the Telangana Governor to sort out certain discrepancies in the department and accord permission to investigate the tainted officials.

2

RGIA rolls out contactless
e-boarding for intl travel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad airport has rolled out, for the first time in the country, its contactless e-boarding facility for domestic as well as international flyers. With this, it has become the first and only airport in India so far to introduce contactless e-boarding. The service is allegedly available for select international flights of IndiGo Airlines.

The GMR-led Hyderabad International Airport rolled out its e-boarding services for international flights after the



government's nod, based on a rigorous and successful pilot. As a key partner in this initiative, IndiGo Airlines became the maiden carrier to commence this facility on October 2, 2020 when their Sharjah-bound passengers e-boarded themselves from Hyderabad on the 6E 1405 flight.

2

Teen sans licence rams
scooter, man killed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Osmania University Police have booked a teenager for driving without licence and ramming a scooter in a negligent manner, resulting in the death of a person. The police booked a case also against the teenager's mother.

According to the OU police, at around 4:30 pm on Sunday evening, 33-year-old Prabhakar Rao was on his way to Alkapuri. When he reached

Habsiguda, the teenager, who was riding a sports bike in a rash and negligent manner, rammed Prabhakar Rao's scooter while taking U-Turn. Due to the mishap, Prabhakar Rao sustained a severe head injury. He was immediately taken to nearby private hospital by passersby.

Based on a complaint from Rao's family, the police booked a case and started investigation.

2

Bandi Sanjay withdraws deeksha
as police force him into hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police cut short Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar's deeksha on Tuesday by shifting him to a hospital forcefully. After BJP activists and his followers rallied at the hospital, Bandi Sanjay withdrew his deeksha there. Former MPs G Vivek and AP Jithender Reddy made Sanjay to withdraw his deeksha by offering lemon juice.

It may be recalled that



Bandi Sanjay took to deeksha at his office in Karimnagar on Monday night demanding that the state government transfer Siddipet CP Joel Davis for attacking him physically.

Doctor kidnapped in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 58-year-old doctor was allegedly kidnapped in broad daylight on Tuesday from a place near his apartment building under the Rajendra Nagar Police Station limits.

According to the police, the burqa-clad kidnappers came in a car and whisked away the doctor, identified as B. Hussain, in no time.

The family members of the doctor approached the Rajendra Nagar Police and

lodged a written complaint.

Subsequently, the police formed special teams to trace the culprits. They are analysing CCTV footage obtained from the surrounding areas.

On Tuesday evening, Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar went to the police station to take stock of the situation. He

is now overseeing the rescue operation.

The police are trying to determine the motive behind the kidnapping. They are ascertaining whether it was for ransom, due to personal enmity, out of professional rivalry or the consequence of a financial dispute. For clues, they are analysing call data records of the abductee.



While parties play game of one-upmanship, Polavaram suffers

While people wait eagerly for the completion of the Polavaram irrigation project, the 'lifeline of AP' is caught in the political blame game.



Centre to curtail the project's estimates to merely Rs 20,398 crore is being seen as another speed bump in the project's completion.

Being a lower riparian state of River Godavari, AP has nearly 1,000 tmc ft at its disposal and nobody would object to its utilisation.

This is what makes Polavaram such a potent tool - if leaders can draw political mileage from the project, they can reap dividends for decades. This is also why the project is being deliberately dragged into controversy by political forces out to score over their rivals.

Be it the ruling party or the opposition, each side holds its rival responsible for the tardy progress of the project. The sudden move of the

The previous TDP regime had grandiosely announced, after completion of the Pattiseema project, that it would complete Polavaram by 2019. In fact, former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had concentrated on Pattiseema as water would flow through project canal.

Polavaram canal was completed by the YSR regime earlier, but it came in handy for Naidu to bring Godavari water to Krishna delta as part of stabilisation of ayacut.

The YSR government had to face allegations that it took up work on Polavaram canal instead of initiating the con-

AP Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan hails form Odisha and had opposed Polavaram project on the floor of the Lok Sabha. Almost certainly, the Centre would have taken his views before its 'calculated clarification' on the Polavaram cost revision

struction of the main project only with an intention of getting kickbacks. There is no doubt that Naidu gained politically from YSR's decision.

Politics over the project continued - each politician worth his salt blaming his rival for the tardy pace of works.

Then like a bolt from the blue, came the Centre's 'calculated clarification' on the cost

estimates, leading to a war of words between the YSRCP and TDP.

This was expected, but very few have paused to understand the reason behind the Centre's move.

If the entire situation is seen from a political angle, it's only the BJP that would gain with this move.

It goes without saying that the BJP wants to expand its



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

base in AP, but its immediate priority is coming to power in Odisha.

Odisha is opposing the Polavaram project along with Telangana, the upper riparian state. In fact, TS Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao met

his Odisha counterpart in Bhubaneswar and discussed the submergence of tribal habitations and vast tracts of forest lands in their respective states due to Polavaram.

The BJP does fancy its chances of storming to power in Odisha by trouncing the ruling BJD that faces anti-incumbency.

Moreover AP Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan hails form Odisha and had opposed Polavaram project on the floor of the Lok Sabha. Almost certainly, the Centre would have taken his views before its 'calculated clarification' on the Polavaram cost revision.

While it's true Naidu's failure to complete Polavaram despite being in power from 1995 to 2004 and then from 2014 to 2019 did hurt the TDP politically, what was most

damaging was the fact he is unable to clearly tell the people the reasons for the delay.

Likewise, delay by Jagan in completing the project within a specific time-frame will undoubtedly hurt the YSRCP politically. The YSRCP government is in a bind, since it cannot go into agitational mode and get the required funds for Polavaram. Jagan has already written to the Centre, objecting to the downsizing of estimates but would a mere letter serve any purpose?

While he asked the Centre why its imposing conditions on the AP government to get the incurred expenses of Rs 2,000-plus crore, Jagan may face political ramifications if he cannot get the desired results from the Modi dispensation.

The YSRCP has 22 MPs (plus a rebel) in the Lok Sabha - a sizable number in a coalition era, but meaningless when the ruling party has a majority of its own.

Naidu and Karunanidhi had literally toyed with the Vajpayee regime and got almost everything they wanted for their respective states. But for Jagan, convincing Modi is an uphill task.

The YSRCP's unconditional support to Modi government on crucial Bills recently had given rise to speculations that Jagan may join the NDA. However, in light of the latest blow from the Centre in the form of revised estimates of the Polavaram, such a move now may prove to be suicidal.

At the end of the day, it's unfortunate that everything that has got to do with Polavaram gets a political colour, and the interests of the state are relegated to the back-ground.

SARPANCHES CRY FOUL

TS decides to entrust street lights' maintenance to EESL

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state government has decided to entrust maintenance of street lights in all the 12,753 village panchayats to the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), depriving the panchayats of the responsibility to maintain the street lights and wanted the District Panchayat Officer, EESL and village sarpanches to reach an agreement in this regard soon.

Responding to the decision, the local bodies have been questioning the government exercising authority over the powers of the panchayats.

The Panchayat Raj Department deciding to reduce power bills burden has decided to fix LED bulbs to street lights in villages too on the lines of the municipalities. Therefore, it reached an agree-



ment with the EESL, which is playing pivotal role in supply of LED bulbs and maintenance of street lights, for a period of seven years. In this backdrop, the Panchayat Raj Department agreed for a tripartite agreement among the DPOs, EESL and village sarpanches.

The responsibility of maintaining the street lights during

the agreement period fully vested with the EESL. Fixing the bulbs, maintenance of street lights and fixing of timers to save energy are the duties of the EESL. However, the Panchayat Raj Department will pay the power bills. It wanted the village panchayats to assess the working of the EESL whether it fixed the street lamps as per the National

Lights Code standards or not. It also decided to set up a command control centre in Panchayat Raj commissionerate to monitor them.

Quoting the Section 32 of the Panchayat Raj Act, the sarpanches call the decision as unconstitutional to impose cut in the powers of the panchayats. The panchayats are not willing to adopt a resolution to entrust the works to the EESL. It has become a big head ache for the Panchayat Raj Department to convince the panchayats to adopt a resolution in this regard by October 28. So far, Siddipet, Rangareddy, Narayanpet and Janagan districts have sent their resolutions to the government. The resolutions are yet to be reached by other districts, giving headache to the panchayat officials.

US says it will stand by India

Continued from Page 1

Both sides were assisted by their top military and security officials.

In a blunt criticism of China, Pompeo, cited killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in a clash with the Chinese military, and asserted that both India and the US are taking steps to strengthen cooperation against all threats and not just those posed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Top government sources said China's "expansionist behaviour" in eastern Ladakh and in various parts of the world was a major talking point during the meeting with both sides vowing to firmly confront the challenges in the region and beyond as part of their common vision and shared interests.

VIJAYAWADA BULLION RATES

GOLD	
₹ 51,420 (10 gm)	↓
SILVER	
₹ 62,400 (1kg)	↓
₹ 100	↓

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹197
Without Skin	₹224
Broiler at Farm	₹136

EGG RATES ₹/100

VIJAYAWADA	529
HYDERABAD	505
VISAKHAPATNAM	522
RETAIL PRICE (IN VIJAYAWADA)	₹5.29

RGIA rolls out contactless e-boarding for intl travel

Continued from Page 1

Other scheduled international carriers operating out of Hyderabad are in the process of integration with the airport's e-boarding system, which will be operationalised soon.

As per the press communique, Pradeep Panicker, CEO, GHIAL, said on the occasion: "Implementation of successful e-boarding at RGIA is outcome of the collaboration with cross-functional teams and all stakeholders, including our key partner IndiGo. We are confident that very soon we will get all our international carriers operating out of Hyderabad onto our e-boarding platform. In the present scenario of the pandemic, automating the passenger journey provides more pleasant airport experience. After the successful pilot of the project and all regulatory approvals, we have used our internal capabilities to take up e-boarding solution for international operations."

Hyderabad International Airport went live for its

STEPS FOR E-BOARDING

- Book the ticket online and do a web check-in
- Display the digital/printed boarding card at the e-boarding scanner at Departures Entrance Gate; CISF validates the documents and allows passenger entry
- Check-in agent scans the boarding card/s at Check-in Counter; passenger drops luggage at the counter
- Passenger completes passport verification by officials of Bureau of Immigration
- Puts hand baggage on Automatic Tray Retrieval System (ATRS), moves for security check. Scans the boarding card on e-boarding scanner and moves on
- At the announcement of boarding, scans the boarding card on e-boarding scanner and moves towards the gates for boarding the aircraft



domestic e-boarding facility in December 2015. The airport is currently handling every scheduled domestic operations through this end-to-end paperless e-boarding. The e-boarding solution is

fully backwards-compatible, and passengers would be free to choose between using conventional paper boarding passes or electronic boarding passes on their mobile phones to use the system.

Teen sans licence rams scooter, man killed

Continued from Page 1

During investigations, the police found that the teenager does not have a driving licence.

He was taken into custody. The police also booked the teenager's mother for allowing him to ride the motorcycle without licence.

Dynastic corruption a political culture...

Continued from Page 1

"Because of this, it has become a part of the political culture in some states. Corruption running through generations and the dynasty of corruption are hollowing out the country like a termite," Modi said.

His remarks came ahead of the first phase of voting in the Bihar assembly election, where the BJP-JD(U) alliance has been targeting Tejashwi Yadav, the chief ministerial

candidate of 'Mahagathbandhan', over corruption cases against his jailed father and RJD leader Lalu Prasad.

When suitable action is not taken in corruption cases, it becomes normalised in society, the prime minister said.

"People know, the media knows that a person has made crores of rupees through corrupt means, but they also start taking it normally. "This situation is a major obstacle in the growth of the

country. It is a hindrance to a prosperous and self-dependent India," he said.

The prime minister said there is a need to have systemic checks, effective audits, capacity building and training against corruption.

"Fighting corruption is not a job of a single agency but is a collective responsibility," Modi said.

During the conference, senior officials of the government, including the Home Secretary, the Comptroller

and Auditor General, and the Finance Secretary, will discuss crucial issues related to investigation challenges in foreign jurisdiction, matters linked to vigilance and corruption, amendments in Prevention of Corruption Act among others.

The national conference organised by the CBI coincides with the 'Vigilance Awareness Week', which is observed in the country annually from October 27 to November 2.

Facebook India policy head quits...

Continued from Page 1

She has been a part of my leadership team over the last two years, a role in which she has made enormous contributions. We are grateful for her service and wish her the very best for the future."

Ms Das' resignation comes weeks after both the company and she faced questions - both internally from employees and from the Indian government - over how political content is regulated on the popular social media platform, which boasts over 300 million users in the country.

'Revenue Dept shielding tainted officials'

Continued from Page 1

Explaining the procedure followed during the enquiry, Padmanabha Reddy said: "As a norm, in all corruption-related cases such as trap or disproportionate assets, Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) requests the Government for permission to prosecute the accused official. Permission for prosecution is being denied by the Revenue Department officials and cases are either dropped or sent to Commissioner of Inquiries for departmental inquiry."

There are many corrup-

tion-related cases in the Revenue Department at the Secretariat. Months of painstaking enquiry by ACB and Vigilance Commission go in vain if the permission is not accorded.

Citing the example of E.B.Nagaraju, who allegedly committed suicide in the prison cell where he had been lodged in a recent corruption case, the Forum said: "In 2011, when E.B.Nagaraju was Deputy Tahasildar, he was booked by ACB in disproportionate assets case. After detailed inquiry, the ACB submitted a report to

Government to accord permission to prosecute the accused. The Revenue Department did not agree to the request of ACB and quite surprisingly dropped further action against him."

In the same manner, most of the cases against tainted officials met the same fate. In a letter, the Forum for Good Governance has requested the Governor to direct the Chief Secretary for ordering a detailed inquiry into ACB cases in the Revenue Department at the Secretariat so as to restore faith in the institution.

COVID is declining in India, except ...

Continued from Page 1

The pandemic, largely in the northern hemisphere, has struck again in several countries. The third peak has come in the US, Paul said, adding that "becoming a bit lax... slowing down surveillance, containment strategies also must be playing a role".

He said that Kerala, West Bengal and Delhi are proceeding towards a third peak.

This is a matter of concern and there can be no complacency in following COVID-19

"appropriate behaviour" in the coming times as more challenges will emerge, Paul said.

More festivals are coming and "where ever we have faltered in the last few days, it will show in 10 to 12 days", he said.

Secretary in the health ministry, Rajesh Bhushan, said that it has been observed that states and union territories like Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi have

reported rise in cases during the festival season.

"It is mandatory for all of us to follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour in the festival season," he said.

Continuous decline in average daily new coronavirus cases has been observed and the figure has come down from 83,232 between September 23-29 to 49,909 for October 21-27, Bhushan said.

"India's COVID-19 case fatality rate has declined from 1.77 per cent on September 1 to 1.50 per cent as on date. India's COVID-19 recovery rate has increased from 76.94 per cent on September 1 to 90.62 per cent as on date," he said.

Bhushan also said that 49.4 per cent of new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours were reported from five states and union territories, which are Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi.

Economy reviving, but GDP growth may be negative: FM

Continued from Page 1

The finance minister further said indicators show that primary sector, agriculture-related segments and rural India are all doing very well.

"Demand for durable goods, agriculture equipments, tractors, vehicles are all going up. Festival season has commenced in India, as a result of which I expect demand go up and be sustainable also," she emphasised.

High-frequency economic indicators show continued improvement both in month-on-month (MoM) and year-on-year (YoY) terms. Manufacturing PMI rose to 56.8 in September, an eight-and-a-half year high, while



per cent YoY in September versus (-) 14 per cent YoY in August.

The RBI has projected the Indian economy contracting by 9.5 per cent in the current fiscal, while International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank estimate the contraction at 10.3 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively.

The Indian economy had been slowing even before the pandemic struck. India's quarterly growth rate has been receding sequentially since Q4 FY18. It recorded a GDP growth of 4.2 per cent in FY20.

services PMI, albeit marginally below the 50 mark, continued to increase from its April trough.

Growth in power demand stood at 10.2 per cent YoY for October versus 4.6 per cent for September. Exports turned positive to 5.3 per cent YoY in September after contracting for six months. Fuel consumption contracted by (-) 1.3

VEHICLE WITH 16 FALLS INTO WELL

PNS ■ WARANGAL RURAL

A Jeep with 16 passengers fell into a roadside open well at Government Model School near Gaviherla village of Sangam mandal in the district, about 13 km away from Warangal city on Tuesday.

While 12 passengers were rescued, search operations are on to trace out the remaining four. An earth digger has been pressed into service to take out the vehicle. The accident took place when the Jeep was proceeding to Nekkonda town from Warangal.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NIT No.: 37/EE/DIV.M017/KZ/GHMC/2020-21
Name of Work: Civil Works(4 Nos). Estimate Amount/ECV: Rs.21.30 Lakhs. Start Date/Last date & time for receipts of Bids: From Dt: 26.10.2020 @ 03.30 P.M., Date: 29.10.2020 @ 03.30 P.M. Officer Name, Address and Cell No: Executive Engineer, Division-17 Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DIVISION-17, (KZ), GHMC
R.O. No.: 6296-PPVCL/ADVT/1/2020-21

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
O/o The Superintendent, Niloufer Hospital, RedHills, Hyderabad
Rc.No.GSINH/2020-21/1396 Tender Notification Dt:22-10-2020
Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Companies/Firms towards supply of following items to Niloufer Hospital, Hyderabad, for the financial year 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 (Two Year). The Tender Form along with the terms and conditions will be available from the office of the Superintendent, Niloufer Hospital, on any working day between 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM on payment of Rs.200. The details of EMD to be enclosed for each tender is as follows:
1. Drugs and Medicines: Rs.1,00,000/- 2. Lab. Material: Rs.1,00,000/- 3. Surgical Items: Rs.1,00,000/- 4. General Items: Rs.50,000/- 5. Laboratory Items: Rs.50,000/- Tender Schedule: 1. Date of sale of Tender Form: 29-10-2020. 2. Last date of sale of the Tender Form: 11-11-2020. 3. Last date for Submission/Sealing of Tender Form: 12-11-2020 up to 12:00 PM. 4. Opening of Tenders: 12-11-2020 at 01:30 PM. 5. Place of opening of tender: Board Room of this hospital. Further details can be had from the office of the Superintendent, Niloufer Hospital and Hyderabad
Sd/- Superintendent Niloufer Hospital, Hyd
DIPR R.O. No.: 6296-PPVCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

Two thieves held, valuables worth Rs 13 lakh seized

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

A degree student was among two thieves police arrested here on Tuesday in connection with seven theft cases that took place under Khanapuram and three town police station limits.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police (Khammam town), Anjaneyulu told press persons that the accused were a B Com second year student, Amaraneni Vamshi of Srinagar Colony in Khammam and a hotel worker Kala Manikanta of Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

They were taken into custody while trying to sell the stolen jewellery to traders at Gandhi Chowk area in the city. During questioning they revealed their identity and confessed to their crimes. The police recovered gold and silver ornaments worth Rs 12.66 lakh from them.

Material like hair dryer, binocular and others worth Rs 40,000 along with a two wheeler were also seized from them. Three town CI, Ch Sridhar, SI, K Srikanth and others were present.

CAB RIDES GET DEARER, RIDERS FEEL THE PINCH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Charges levied by taxi services have been burning a hole in the pockets of Hyderabadis.

Commuters have been complaining vehemently about this dynamic pricing. Cab fares went up two-and-a-half to three times the normal fare, making a regular trip cost Rs 500 as opposed to the normal Rs 150.

Cab drivers have also been collecting more money in the name of dry run citing that the cab is not available in the area where the customer resides.

The customer has no alternative except to depend on cab services to commute to areas without public transport.

The fare from Secunderabad to Manikonda, which usually range between Rs 300 to 350, has been hiked to Rs 550.

Similarly, the fare from Banjara Hills to Ram Nagar now costs Rs 180 to Rs 220 as against the earlier fare of Rs 110-120. The cab service providers have been exploiting the commuters during their need.



The cab fare has been frightening the commuters in almost all routes of the city. There is a huge difference in the cab fare prior to the lockdown and the fare being collected after the lockdown.

During the Coronavirus lockdown, most of the citizens have postponed their trips. After relaxing the lockdown, people have been moving around and the number of people travelling from one place to another for jobs, business purposes and other needs has increased, but the public transport did not increase as per the people's needs. The IT

sector did not resume fully. As a result, the number of cabs plying on the city roads has come down. Only 60,000 cabs are on the roads as against 1.5 lakh earlier. The cab services will increase only after the resumption of the IT sector. The public transport is now not enough to meet the transport needs of half of 50 lakh commuters, who used to travel by public transport daily prior to the lockdown. Out of the 3000 city buses only 1000 are plying on various routes. In all, 121 more MMTS services are yet to resume. That is why people bank more on their private

transport.

Therefore, the cab services have been collecting nearly 50 per cent additional fare on the pretext of non-availability of cab services from the place of choice of the customer.

For instance, a person who booked cab service from Uppal will receive the cab from Tarnaka as the cab is not available in Uppal. Since the cab has to travel vacant from Tarnaka to Uppal, the commuters are being burdened additionally.

During mornings, evenings and other peak hours, in the name of dry run the cab services have been fleecing the customers. The situation is similar even with the auto-rickshaws.

In the name of the dry runs, the additional fare collected by drivers will go into the pockets of the service provider, who also collect 25 per cent commission from the drivers. In view of the prevailing situation, the cab service providers should provide relief to cab drivers by claiming only 20 per cent commission.

Creative space for flood relief works

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA
■ HYDERABAD

You might have visited relief camps loaded with food, clothes, some other household products and a few volunteers who are packing things up in a kit quietly. But have you ever visited a relief camp, where there is music, singing, meeting new creators and which is buzzing with energy?

As a ray of hope many youngsters have come together in an old Audi showroom located at Banjara Hills, Road number 12, to help people by making sanitary kits, which they distribute to the flood affected families. But what makes it interesting, is that these youngsters don't just sit and make distribution kits. They also entertain and encourage each other by singing, rapping, music and much more.

It all started when a 20-year-old Farhaan Ahmed, thought of helping people out with donating clothes and other sanitary requirements. However, while people were ready to donate, what he essentially needed was volunteers. He shares, "The relief work and



donation camp was already there, people were giving clothes, food and other things. But, we wanted more volunteers. So, I asked my friends to come. Initially, there were not many who came to help. You see, no one wants to be a part of a boring social service group. So, we came up with an idea of calling it a creative exchange place rather. And that did the trick."

Farhaan and his friend Sidharth Bindi put posts up on social media and called for as many creators to help them out. "We genuinely didn't expect so many people will come. In fact on Monday around 100 people came. Some to perform and some toy

watch. But, it was mandatory that every stayed an hour to make the kits. We made about 300 odds kits and that was really helpful," shares a 22-year-old Sidharth, who is also the founder of NGO The Beautiful World Movement. He adds, "I had a group of 30 to 40 young creators from the city, whom I connected with during the lockdown. I called all of them. They came and along with them their friends also came. We work through the day and towards the evening we have jam sessions, rappers and what not. It's really fun." Each kit that leaves the center has a sanitary pad, a sanitiser, a female and male clothing item and a kids clothing item.

CITY LIGHTS

TS police appeal to public to vote for 'SKOCH' award

Telangana state police appeal to the public to vote for them to win 'SKOCH' Order of merit award which was given for the best services police offered during pandemic. During the pandemic times Telangana state police are the first to implement drone-based surveillance to ensure social distancing. The police officials also came up with first of its kind technological solution to deal with the pandemic. Telangana state Director General of police M Mahender Reddy appealed to public to vote for Telangana police through his official Twitter handle. "Hope our people/our communities stand with us. A chance to promote your Police at a more broader Platform."



JNTU-H to conduct fact finding committee inspections in Dec

The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Hyderabad (JNTU-H) has decided to conduct the annual fact finding committee inspections for the ensuing academic year 2020-21 during December. All affiliated colleges under the ambit of the university which have submitted online application for affiliation process for the academic year 2020-21, were asked to submit an affidavit stating they will comply with all affiliation norms scrupulously, failing which, disciplinary action will be initiated against the erring Colleges. The last date for submission of affidavit by the colleges to the university is November 2. The provisional affiliation letters for the academic year 2020-21, will be issued to the colleges subject to submission of the affidavits duly attested, the JNTU-H said, in a circular issued to all affiliated colleges on Tuesday.



TSCHE to declare EdCET results today

The results of Telangana State Education Common Entrance Test (TS EdCET) 2020 will be declared on Wednesday. Telangana State Council of Higher Education chairman, Prof. T Papi Reddy will announce the results at Osmania University at 11.30 am. A total of 30,600 candidates appeared for the test which was conducted on October 1 and 3 for admissions into two-year BE courses in the Colleges of Education in the State.



NTPC observes 'Vigilance Awareness Week' in Hyd

NTPC-Southern Region Headquarters in Secunderabad commenced observance of Vigilance Awareness Week-2020 with the employees taking a pledge to continuously strive to bring about integrity and transparency in all spheres of their activities and shall work unstintingly for eradication of corruption in all spheres of life'. CV Anand, Regional Executive Director South administered the pledge to all employees in Hindi and English and said development and progress of the nation takes place when individuals and organizations were vigilant in safeguarding integrity as a core value. A webinar on 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India' which is the theme of this year's Vigilance Awareness Week was organized on this occasion. The Vigilance Awareness Week will be observed till November 2 and NTPC will be holding of essay writing competition (online) for students of government schools and colleges in Secunderabad and Arts College Osmania University in Hyderabad, a press release said.



Several state-run junior college buildings in dilapidated condition

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Several government junior college buildings are in a dilapidated condition. The recent heavy rains that lashed the city damaged them further. The old buildings may crash down at any time.

The rains have pulled down the government junior college at Aliya partially. Fortunately no students and teachers were there inside the building when it collapsed.

The teachers have been expressing concern over the safety of the students as there are many more such dilapidated junior college buildings in the city as the government has been making arrangements to reopen the colleges.

The issue was taken to the notice of the government by students and teachers on many occasions, but of no use.

The heavy rains cause the college buildings seep water and the water is entering the classrooms. District Intermediate Board official Jayaprada submitted a report to the Board of Intermediate Education on the condition of the junior college buildings. She suggested building new buildings wherever possible and also recommended construction of additional classrooms.

Board of Intermediate



Education Commissioner Syed Zaleel Khan asked the Telangana State Educational Infrastructure Development Corporation for a comprehensive report on the condition of the junior college buildings.

The number of government junior colleges in city limits is 22. Of them, 15 buildings have been identified in a precarious condition. The number of students who obtained admission in the I year is 8600 and those who are studying second year is put at 7800.

The Junior college at Aliya collapsed to a greater extent, while the Mahabubia college building reached dilapidated condition. The two heritage

structures should be restored spending huge amounts. Rain water entered classrooms in the Government Junior College at Chanchalguda.

Walls of the Junior college at Bazarghat in Nampally are seeping water. The New Government Junior College for girls at Malakpet and the Government Junior College for girls at Falaknuma have become hazardous. In Vidyanagar, two classrooms have been allotted to run junior college in the degree college to run the junior college. The MAM Junior college at Nampally requires additional class rooms. The Junior college at Hussaini Alam has reached dilapidated condition.

Driver ends life

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An autorickshaw driver died by suicide at Parvedula village of Peddavoor in the district on Tuesday, apparently due to fear that some passengers who were travelling in his autorickshaw might have suffered serious injuries or even died as it turned turtle.

The deceased, identified as Lavudi Bixam (35), a native of Vatchya thanda of Damaracherla, was taking 10 passengers from Damaracherla to Vaddipatla late on Monday night, when the accident occurred. Bixam, who was in

an inebriated condition, feared that his passengers may have suffered fatal injuries, and fled from the spot. Locals found his body hanging from a tree at Parvedula on Tuesday morning and alerted the police. Police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to Devarakonda area hospital for post-mortem. The police suspect that Bixam may have ended his life due to the fear that he had put his passengers in harms way. The passengers, in fact, suffered only minor injuries in the accident. Peddavor police filed a case and took up investigation.

2 drug peddlers held, 40 grams of charas seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two persons were arrested and 40 grams of charas seized from their possession here on Tuesday.

The Commissioner's Task Force, acting on a tip-off, caught T Suraj Singh (27) and G Lalith Kumar (24), both residents of Mangalhat, who were allegedly selling charas after sourcing it from one Vijay Singh, who is absconding, said Gattu Mallu, Inspector, Task Force (West).

BACK TO NORMALCY



The Nehru Zoological Park, one of the key tourist attractions in Hyderabad, is back to normal with increasing numbers of visitors day by day.

Blue moon to grace the sky on Oct 31

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The second full moon in the current month, referred in western folklore as 'Blue Moon' will appear in the sky on October 31.

Planetary Society of India (PSI) Director N Sri Raghunandan Kumar on Tuesday said, in October month this year, Moon will appear in its Total Phase (full Moon) for two times.

First it was on October 2 and Second Full Moon is visible on October 31. This second full moon in a month is referred in western folklore as Blue Moon, he added. Raghunandan Kumar said generally in a calendar year at least one full



moon is visible in the sky every month. However sometimes, rarely, that is, once in every 2 to 3 years or 2.715 years

on average two full moons appear in the same month.

Hence in the western folklore metaphorically to describe

PSI Director said, in October month this year, Moon will appear in its total phase (full Moon) for two times.

the rarity of this occurrence of second full moon (like on October 31) in a month is popularly referred to as Blue Moon.

Hence the world Blue Moon is not coined or recognised by International Astronomical Union (IAU) the highest body responsible for Astronomy but in culture or language, the PSI Director said.

WORLD STROKE DAY

People can suffer stroke without even realising

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of World Stroke Day on October 29, doctors point out that a section of people could suffer strokes without even realising it is called 'Silent Stroke'. It could cause permanent damage to vital organs like the brain resulting in loss of memory.

Stroke is one of the leading causes of death and disability in India. As per the latest statistics the estimated adjusted prevalence rate of stroke ranges from 84-262 per one

lakh in rural and 334-424 per one lakh in urban areas. In comparison to non-smoking population, people who smoke carry 2.5 times higher risk of suffering a stroke, and the risk of stroke grows further when the individual is overweight or obese in nature.

Dr Simanchal Mishra, Sr Consultant Medicovert Hospita-ls said, "Among a major section, the stroke might not result in easy-to-recognize symptoms but can be traced only through a brain scan."

Government in talks with pharma firms over cold-chain management

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

While Coronavirus vaccine development is being watched closely by people from all walks of life, governments and Pharma companies are preparing for a cold storage mechanism for storing the vaccines. Most of the Covid vaccines being developed are RNA-based vaccines, which need a cold-chain management of minus 80 degree Celsius in the entire country.

The Central government reportedly asked the state governments to plan for a cold storage supply chain for handling the vaccine.

Apart from identifying who gets the vaccine first, states were apparently asked to gear up with cold chain management including sites, district level vaccine stores among



others.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed upon the importance of cold chain management. Telangana Government has already contacted Pharma companies about cold chain management.

Girish Bhat Medihauxe Pharma Pvt. Ltd said, "Telangana Government - Health Minister, State and Union Health Ministry

Officials, Drug Controller, their authorities and all super specialty hospitals have been in constant touch with us about vaccine management. The SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, like any other vaccines, needs to be kept in cold, fixed within a precise temperature range from the moment it leaves the manufacturer to the moment it's administered. This is very hard, even some developed countries with

strong supply chains find it difficult. But, in our case, we have been achieving uninterrupted temperature maintenance even in transit for the past so many years with a proven track record".

He added that as we are nearing the vaccine, companies and the government machinery is looking at us for its delivery in Telugu states as we have a proven track record.

Hyderabad at large has so much of infrastructure already pre existing and running well, that the city based pharma companies are ready to accept the challenges and responsibility of corona vaccine distribution.

Pharma companies in Hyderabad are announcing that they are fully geared up to handle, store and distribute Corona vaccine in both Telugu states as and when the vaccine

is made available. Even recently Apollo hospitals announced that it secured a cold chain to manage the safety of 300 million doses per annum. As per Apollo hospitals, "Apollo Hospitals have been strengthening its vaccine cold chain for supply and gearing up all Apollo facilities for efficient and fast administration with the highest safety standards, for up to 1 million doses per day. We will leverage our India web of 19 medicine supply hubs with cold chain facilities to deliver the vaccines".

A vaccine's journey can be risky with underdeveloped infrastructure. If there's a break in the cold chain as a vaccine has to be taken to many places, it will lose its potency. And the entire purpose is defeated. Even logistics providers are ramping up its cold chain infrastructure.

'Ensure hassle free mutation, registration through Dharani'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on Tuesday instructed the revenue officials to extend hassle free registration and mutation services through Dharani portal to the citizens as envisioned by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

He appealed to the revenue staff to live up to the expectations of the Chief Minister in the successful implementation of Dharani portal by providing services in a simple, transparent, and speedy manner without any discretionary powers. He said that under the portal, registration and mutation will be completed immediately. Dharani would become a trend-setter in the country, he said.

Addressing a training programme of officials and staff of the revenue and registration departments on Dharani here, Somesh Kumar said the Chief



Minister will launch Dharani on October 29. Through a power-point presentation on the functioning of the portal, he explained slot booking, citizen open portal, successor modules and partition modules. The roles and responsibilities of Tahsildars and data entry operators were also explained in detail.

The Chief Secretary observed that the role of the revenue department would increase manifold as they would henceforth function as joint sub registrars. He urged

the revenue employees to work as a team and bring good name to the government. The government, he said, was committed to resolve issues pertaining to the Revenue department.

He said that a State level control room will be set up to address technical issues. Similarly, a district level technical support team would resolve issues arising at the district level. Necessary infrastructure should be in place at all the offices for the purpose, he added.

Farmers set ablaze fields with damaged crops in Kamareddy

SHABBIR ALI DEMANDS COMPENSATION FOR RAIN-HIT FARMERS

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Former Minister and ex-Leader of Opposition in Telangana Legislative Council Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Tuesday demanded that the state government to give compensation to the farmers who lost their paddy and cotton crops due to excess rains, spurious seeds and other reasons.

Shabbir Ali, along with Medak and Kamareddy DCC Presidents and other leaders, visited various farms in Narsingi mandal where farmers set ablaze the fields of damaged paddy cotton and crops.

Speaking to media persons later, Shabbir Ali pointed out that Ganesh, a tenant farmer, suffered heavy losses due to the damage caused to his superfine varieties of paddy. Similarly, other farmers, Ailash Yadav and Balamma, lost their cotton and paddy crops due to the



excess rainfall and other plant diseases. He said each farmer has suffered losses to the tune of several thousands of rupees per acre. The tenant farmers are the worst sufferers. However, he said that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao did not even conduct a review meeting to discuss the damage caused to the crops and did not initiate any action to even enumerate the losses.

The farmers had set ablaze the fields of damaged crops in the presence of Shabbir Ali and other Congress leaders. The Congress leader said that the farmers followed the Chief Minister's advice in sowing cotton and paddy under the Regulated Cropping system. However, a majority of farmers lost their crops due to excess rainfall, spurious seeds, diseases and other causes.

Speed up bus stand works: Puvvada Ajay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Khammam: Transport Minister P Ajay Kumar has set a deadline of seven weeks for completing the construction of a new RTC bus stand at NSP camp area in Khammam.

The Minister, accompanied by District Collector RV Karnam, inspected the bus stand construction works on Tuesday. "The works have to be completed within the next two months," he said, adding that he would review the progress every week.

The bus stand being built at a cost of Rs 17.50 crores will consist of a shopping complex and cargo services hall besides parking area, waiting hall and bus platforms. The bus stand would be a modern one with state-of-the-art facilities, he said.

It was planned to relocate the existing RTC bus depot adjacent to the new bus stand for the convenience of the passengers and betterment of services.

TS again sees less than 1,000 Covid cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

For a third consecutive day on Tuesday, Telangana reported less than 1,000 Covid positive cases as the authorities halved the daily number of tests.

During the last 24 hours, 21,099 samples were tested and out of these 837 were found positive, taking the state's tally to 2,32,671.

While laboratories test fewer samples every weekend, this time the test numbers were reduced for three days, apparently due to Dussehra holidays.

A total of 27,055 samples were tested on Friday-Saturday and 14,729 on Saturday-Sunday.

Four more people succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,315.



The fatality stands at 0.56 per cent against the national average of 1.5 per cent.

Officials said the percentage of deaths due to Covid-19 was 44.96 while the remaining 55.04 had co-morbidities.

Greater Hyderabad reported 185 new cases. For a third consecutive day, none of the other

districts reported new cases in three digits. Khammam recorded the second highest number of cases at 76 followed by Rangareddy (59), Karimnagar (51), Bhadrachalam (48) and Medchal Malkajgiri (41).

According to the daily media bulletin released by the office

of the director of public health and family welfare, 1,554 people recovered from the virus during the 24-hour period that ended 8 pm. Monday.

The state's recovery rate stands at 91.14 per cent as against the national average of 90.3 per cent.

The total number of active cases stands at 17,890 of which 14,851 are in home or institutional isolation.

The cumulative number of tests mounted to 41,15,516. Eighteen government-run laboratories, 46 private laboratories and 1,076 Rapid Antigen test centres are conducting the tests.

Out of 21,099 samples tested during the last 24 hours, 20,172 samples were tested in government-run laboratories and 927 in private.

BLOs threatening MLC voters: TJS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission on Tuesday alleging that irregularities are taking place in the enrollment of graduate MLC voters in Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduate constituency.

The party submitted complaint to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shashank Goel alleging that the local booth level officers (BLOs) are behaving against the election guidelines. The BLOs are stating that application seeking vote will be rejected in case the applicant, who applied vote through online, failed to submit their certificate physically at MRO



The TJS requested the CEO to direct the EROs and AEROs to control the revenue staff threatening.

office. It is against the constitution, TJS said.

The TJS said that as per Article 9 of a memo 1069/Elecs.B/A/2020-3 issued by the Election Commission on September 24, 2020, the BLOs have to verify the certificates of the applicant by going to the person applied for vote

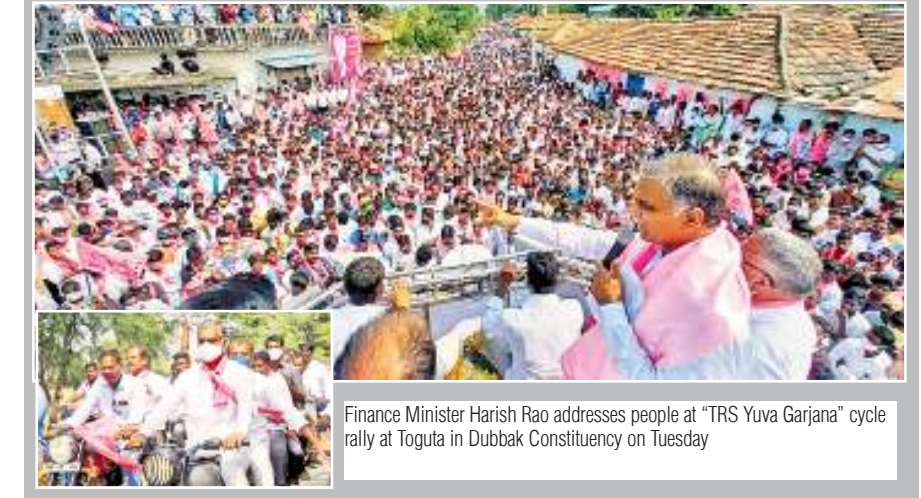
through online. However, the BLOs are stating that they will reject the application for vote in case the applicant failed to submit the original certificate by going to MRO office and TJS asked the CEO to consider the issues seriously.

The party alleged that the local revenue staff is ridiculing

the democracy succumbing to the pressure mounted by the ruling TRS party leaders. The party said that the vote is a weapon in the democracy, however, it is not correct to the revenue staff to indulge in threatening instead of encouraging voter enrollment. The TJS requested the CEO to direct the EROs and AEROs to control the revenue staff threatening.

The TJS also requested the CEO to direct the collectors, MROs and BLOs to give another chance to the applicant to show their certificates by going to MRO office in case if there any problem arises when BLOs goes for the verification of the certificates to the residence of applicant.

ON FAST TRACK



Finance Minister Harish Rao addresses people at "TRS Yuva Garjana" cycle rally at Toguta in Dubbak Constituency on Tuesday

Minister tells officials to ground PMGSY works

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao has asked the officials of his department to ground the (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) PMGSY phase-3 batch-1 works and send proposals for the

batch-2 works immediately to the Centre.

He told the officials that more road projects should be obtained from the Centre and more villages should be provided with road facility. The existing roads should be

improved.

In a review meeting held here on Tuesday, he asked the officials to complete construction of Rytu Vedikas before the deadline. The works related to construction of Rytu Kallam should begin as the har-

vesting of crops is going to begin soon. Under the PMGSY, the Centre has sanctioned 2427.5 km long roads with an estimated cost of Rs 658 crore. Under the batch-1, works for development of roads up to a distance of 1,119.94 km have been sanctioned.

Cops foil BJP's 'Chalo Pragathi Bhavan' march, arrest leaders

L VENKAT RAM REDDY
■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State police foiled the BJP's 'Chalo Pragathi Bhavan' march, sought to be carried out on Tuesday by the saffron party, along with ABVP and BJYM, by placing several BJP leaders under house arrest. Some of the leaders were taken into preventive custody, after the party announced its programme to protest at Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's official residence in an effort to highlight the 'high-handedness of the police'.

Early in the morning, police personnel were deployed outside the residences of many BJP leaders to prevent them from stepping outside. As a preventive step, several top BJP leaders, including BJP vice-president DK Aruna, MLC Ramachandra Rao, MLA Raja Singh and senior leader Motkupalli Narasimulu were put under house arrest. Some of the BJP leaders were taken into preventive elsewhere in the state too.



When cops deployed at the residence of Aruna sought to prevent her from leaving the residence, she told the police officials that she had to leave for Dubbak to campaign for the November 3 by-election to the Assembly seat. Ramachandra Rao termed the house arrest as 'murder of democracy'. He asserted that the BJP leaders

had the freedom to meet the Chief Electoral Officer and the Governor to complain about Monday's incidents in Siddipet. The BJP leaders and its youth outfits had given the 'Chalo Pragathi Bhavan' call to protest the arrest of State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and searches at the office and residence of Dubbak BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao and

at the residences of his kin in Siddipet without search warrants and without cops and revenue officials doing due diligence.

The BJP leaders decried police action against Raghunandan Rao, stating that the TRS government had targeted him ever since the party announced his name as BJP candidate for Dubbak bypoll.

The state BJP leaders said they would complain to the State Election Commissioner over the TRS government's alleged harassment of the BJP leader ahead of the bypolls.

Trouble began on Monday when the police seized nearly Rs 19 lakh cash from the kin Raghunandan Rao, BJP candidate for Dubbak by-election.

A clash broke out between the police and BJP leaders when the police raided the office and residence of Raghunandan Rao and later the residences of his kin and seized the cash in Siddipet. In the ensuing clash, Raghunandan Rao reportedly fainted.

Kishan asks DGP to submit report on Siddipet incidents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Kishan Reddy on Tuesday directed Telangana DGP Mahender Reddy to conduct a 'thorough probe' and submit an 'unbiased report' on Monday's incidents in Siddipet following raids by police and revenue personnel at the office and residence of BJP candidate for Dubbak bypoll Raghunandan Rao and at the residences of Rao's kin. Kishan Reddy asked the DGP how police personnel in civil dress could raid the residences of Raghunandan Rao's relatives without a valid search warrant. The Telangana government was misusing official machinery and harassing BJP leaders ahead of the byelections in Dubbak, he said. The MoS for Home directed the DGP to submit a detailed report on the arrest of Telangana

BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and the entire search operation at the residences of the kin of Raghunandan. The police on Monday had seized Rs 18.67 lakh cash in Siddipet town from the house of a relative of BJP candidate M Raghunandan Rao. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday telephoned Sanjay to enquire about the incident in Siddipet. Bandi Sanjay briefed Amit Shah about the sequence of events that took place in Siddipet and the way police mishandled the entire issue. He told Amit Shah that the Telangana police had acted in a high-handed manner. Sanjay Kumar on Tuesday undertook 'Deeksha', alleging that the ruling TRS party was planning to postpone the Dubbak Assembly by-poll by hook or crook and hence was using the police force to harass his party workers.

TS BJP seeks suspension of Siddipet Commissioner

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that the TRS government was misusing police and revenue officials in the run up to the November 3 Dubbak by-poll, the BJP in Telangana on Tuesday requested the Election Commission to suspend the Siddipet Police Commissioner. The party, in a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer, also sought a CBI inquiry into the incident of cash seizure and subsequent developments on Monday at Siddipet and to appoint a Police Observer to oversee the Dubbak assembly by-election.

The party also requested the CEO to deploy central forces in the Constituency for conducting free and fair elections. Sanjay told that the TRS, fearing defeat, was plan-

ning to get the polls postponed.

"I, along with other leaders, was prevented from going to Dubbak (on Monday night). Despite me being an MP and astar campaigner, the Siddipet Commissioner shoved me."

Dismissing the BJP's charge that police were trying to plant the cash bag at the residence of the party leader's relative, Police Commissioner Joel Davis termed them as 'absolutely wrong and rubbish'.

"With allegations against the police, selective clippings were shown on tv as if police brought the cash and planted the money bag... all such allegations are absolutely wrong," he said adding that searches were conducted after serving notices and it was video-graphed.

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Village: Kunderam Mandal: Lingalaphanpur District: Jangsan									
L1 Distributor Main Canal of Naravel Reservoir of Km. 0.000 to 4.300 (T5)									
1	666	Patta/Dry	1-01 1/2	Shrinamshetty Upender W/o Chandramouli					
Total			1-01 1/2						
Total			17-25 1/2						
Village: Waddicherla									
Trees				Structures					
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plinty area					
Nil				Nil					
Village: Kunderam									
Trees				Structures					
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plinty area					
Nil				Nil					
Village: Waddicherla Mandal: Lingalaphanpur District: Jangsan									
1L of L2 Distributor Main Canal of Naravel Reservoir of Km. 0.000 to 2.450 (T.E)									
Dist Collector File No. G3/1608/2019,				Date: - -2020					
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. C/558/2019				Date: -09-2020					
Sy No	Sy No	Type of the Patta	Type of the Land	Area Under Cultivation (Acres)	Name of the pottadars / occupants				Remarks
1	705	Dry	Dry	0-07	Potuganni Shiva Datthu Prasad S/o Siddaiah				
Total			0-07						
Village: Waddicherla									
Trees				Structures					
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plinty area					
Nil				Nil					
Village: Lingalaphanpur Mandal: Lingalaphanpur District: Jangsan									
Main Canal of Naravel Reservoir									
Dist Collector File No. G3/1054/2019,				Date: - -2020					
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. C/1559/2020				Date 22-09-2020					
Sy No	Sy No	Type of the Patta	Type of the Land	Area Under Cultivation (Acres)	Name of the pottadars / occupants				Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6				7
1	402	Patta	ID	1-13	Musuku Yellareddy S/o Ramansimsimareddy				
2	572	Patta	ID	0-03 1/2	Musuku Yellareddy S/o Ramansimsimareddy				
3	588	Patta	ID	0-07	Musuku Yellareddy S/o Ramansimsimareddy				
Total			1-23 1/2						
Village: Lingalaphanpur									
Trees				Structures					
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plinty area					
Nil				Nil					
Village: Waddicherla Mandal: Lingalaphanpur District: Jangsan									
Main Canal of Naravel Reservoir									
Dist Collector File No. G3/1056/2019,				Date: - -2020					
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. C/1559/2020				Date 22-09-2020					
Sy No	Sy No	Type of the Patta	Type of the Land	Area Under Cultivation (Acres)	Name of the pottadars / occupants				Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6				7
1	893	Patta	Dry	0-12 1/2	Throul Sampath S/o Shankarajah				
2	803	Patta	Dry	0-07 1/2					
Total			0-20						
Village: Waddicherla									
Trees				Structures					
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plinty area					
Nil				Nil					
Village: Gummavadey Mandal: Lingalaphanpur District: Jangsan									
Main Canal of Naravel Reservoir									
Dist Collector File No. G3/1055/2019,				Date: - -2020					
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. C/1547/2020				Date 22-09-2020					
Sy No	Sy No	Type of the Patta	Type of the Land	Area Under Cultivation (Acres)	Name of the pottadars / occupants				Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6				7
1	210	Patta	Dry	0-28	Sangi Raju S/o Komarajah				
Total			0-28						
Grand Total			21-27						
Village: Gummavadey									
Trees				Structures					
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plinty area					
Nil				Nil					
Village: Kancharapally Mandal: Raghunathapally District: Jangsan									
2L of Ashwaraopally Right Main Canal From Km. 7.250 to 7.600									
Dist. Collector Jangsan File No. G3/177/2019, Date: -09-2020									
Dist Collector Gazette No. JN/LA/ /2020, Date: -09-2020									
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. A/161/2019				Date: -09-2020					
Sy No	Sy No	Type of the Patta	Type of the Land	Area Under Cultivation (Acres)	Name of the pottadars / occupants				Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6				7
1	1041	Patta	Dry	3-05 3/4	Mekola Marri Reddy S/o Kasava Reddy (0-25 1/4) Mekola Shreeni Reddy S/o Kasava Reddy (0-20 1/4) Thumma Balakrishna Reddy S/o Rayappa Reddy (1-02 3/4) Kothapalli Yadagiri S/o Komarajah (0-09 1/2) Kothapalli Narasiah S/o Komarajah (0-09 3/4) Mala Abbasiah S/o Venkiah Reddy (0-18 1/4)				
2	1042	Patta	Dry	0-01	Gopu Balli Reddy S/o Thandru Reddy (0-01)				
Total			3-06 3/4						
Village: Kancharapally Mandal: Raghunathapally District: Jangsan									
Trees				Structures					
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plinty area					
Nil				Nil					
Village: Ashwaraopally Mandal: Raghunathapally District: Jangsan									
2L of Ashwaraopally Right Main Canal From Km. 7.250 to 7.600									
Dist. Collector Jangsan File No. G3/177/2019, Date: -09-2020									
Dist Collector Gazette No. JN/LA/ /2020, Date: -09-2020									
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. A/161/2019				Date: -09-2020					
Sy No	Sy No	Type of the Patta	Type of the Land	Area Under Cultivation (Acres)	Name & Address of person interested				Remarks</

			Kongari Ramesh S/o Malliah		
	Total	0-10			
Village: Raghunathapally Mandal: Raghunathapally District: Janagaon					
Trees			Structures		
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Type	Plinty area	
Nil			Nil		
Village: Jeedical Mandal: Lingalaghanpur District: Janagaon					
10L of Ashwaryapally Right Main Canal From Km. 0.000 to 0.525					
Dist. Collector Janagaon File No. G31976/2017,			Date: -09-2020		
Dist Collector Gazette No. JMLA/ /2020,			Date: -09-2020		
R.D.N & L.A.O. File No. C/1664/2017			Date: -09-2020		
Sil. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	7
1	46	Patta	Dry	0-21 Bhureddy Anthalak S/o Ramesh (0-10 1/2) Bhureddy Sanjeeviah S/o Ramaiah (0-10 1/2)	
Total		0-21			
Village: Jeedical Mandal: Lingalaghanpur District: Janagaon					
Trees			Structures		
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Type	Plinty area	
Nil			Nil		
Village: Kallam Mandal: Lingalaghanpur District: Janagaon					
1L of 20L Ashwaryapally Right Main Canal From Km. 0.000 to 2.400					
Dist. Collector Janagaon File No. G31139/2018,			Date: -09-2020		
Dist Collector Gazette No. JMLA/ /2020,			Date: -09-2020		
R.D.N & L.A.O. File No. A/1137/2018			Date: -09-2020		
Sil. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	7
1	403	Patta	Dry	0-21 Jilella Madhu Mohan S/o Malla Reddy (0-21)	
	404	Patta	Dry	0-01 Jilella Madhu Mohan S/o Malla Reddy (0-01 3/4)	
3	405	Dry	0-13	Bushigampala Kantam (0-10 1/2) Pundru Laama Reddy S/o Malla Reddy S/o Bushigampala Kantam (0-02 1/4) Pundru Laama Reddy S/o Malla Reddy (0-00 1/4)	
4	464	Patta	Dry	0-03 Are Padma W/o Narahari (0-03 1/4)	
Total		0-39			
Village: Kallam Mandal: Lingalaghanpur District: Janagaon					
Trees			Structures		
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Type	Plinty area	
Nil			Nil		
Village: Janagaon Mandal: Janagaon District: Janagaon					
06 of Cheestadour Right Main Canal From Km. 0.000 to 2.365					
Dist. Collector Janagaon File No. G33019/2017,			Date: -09-2020		
Dist Collector Gazette No. JMLA/ /2020,			Date: -09-2020		
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. C/23306/2017			Date: -09-2020		
Sil. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	7
1	427	Patta	Dry	1-00 Nanga Somaiah (Plots)(0-07) Nanga Lechiaah (Plots)(0-07) Chendramouli (Plots)(0-20) Balaboina Kalamma W/o Malliah (0-06)	
2	426	Patta	Dry	0-06 Balaboina Somaiah S/o Yadagini (0-06 1/2)	
3	425	Patta	Dry	1-30 Balaboina Malliah S/o Yadagini (0-10 1/2) Koyakkar Gaddeem Ramjee S/o Nathan Jee (0-16 1/2) Jaya Mallayya S/o Siddaiah (0-26 1/2) Jaya Somaiah S/o Ramaiah (0-06 1/2) Railway Track (0-10 1/2)	
4	331	Patta	Dry	4-08 Kukatta Devaiah S/o Chima Ramiah (0-06) Madugani Yadamma W/o Komuriah (0-14) Didigam Narasingarao S/o Abbasulu(0-16) Kanuganti Shekar S/o Abbasulu (0-19) Kanuganti Muthiah S/o Sil (0-10) Kanugant Nasimihulu S/o Sr (0-19) Methuku Venugoppl Reddy S/o Govin Reddy (0-20) Methuku Chaitanya Reddy S/o Chandra Reddy (0-34)	
5	325	Patta	Dry	0-35 Plots (0-35)	
7	329	Patta	Dry	0-26 Plots (0-26)	
3	325	Patta	Dry	0-35 Plots (0-27) Road (0-04) Road (0-04)	
8	324	Patta	Dry	1-30 Plots (0-30)	
9	323	Patta	Dry	0-03 Plots (0-03)	
10	303	Patta	Dry	1-28 Plots (0-33) Chilikala Anjiah (0-22) National High Way (0-13)	
11	321	Patta	Dry	0-04 Karre Ramenarasiah s/o Agamalaih (0-04)	
12	320	Patta	Dry	0-27 Karre Ramenarasiah s/o Agamalaih (0-04) No Name (0-04) Plots (0-09)	
13	319	Patta	Dry	0-16 Plots (0-16)	
Total		14-09			

Village: Pembarthi Mandal: Janagaon District: Janagaon						
D6 of Cheetadour Right Main Canal From Km						
Sl. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area Under Cultivation (in aunes)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	68	Patta	Dry	0-35	Karre Ramnarasaiah S/o Agaiah (0-35)	
2	69	Patta	Dry	0-22	Mekala Beeraiah S/o Ilaiah Mekala Iamma W/o Siddaiah	
3	71	Patta	Dry	0-10	No Name (0-06 1/2) Kandukuri Bhaskar S/o Siddrajan (0-03 1/3)	
4	72	Patta	Dry	0-04	Challa Somi Reddy S/o Ram Reddy (0-00 1/2) Challa Anji Reddy S/o Somi Reddy (0-03 1/2)	
5	75	Patta	Dry	1-14 1/2	No Name (0-09 1/2) Challa Bhupal Reddy S/o Narsi Reddy (1-05)	
6	115	Patta	Dry	1-34	Ambala Arjaneyulu (0-07 1/2) Challa Damodhar Reddy S/o Narsi Reddy (1-26 1/2)	
Total				4-39 1/2		
Village: Kallam Mandal: Lingalaphanapur District: Janagaon						
D6 of Cheetadour Right Main Canal From Km						
Sl. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area Under Cultivation (in aunes)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	113	Patta	Dry	1-30 1/2	Mekala Beeraiah S/o Ilaiah Mekala Iamma W/o Siddaiah	
2	132	Patta	Dry	2-27	Mekala Beeraiah S/o Ilaiah Mekala Iamma W/o Siddaiah Banda Iammalliah (0-20) Degala Sathamma W/o Somaiah (0-05)	0-22
3	118	Patta	Dry	0-29	Degala Sathamma W/o Somaiah (0-29)	
4	117	Patta	Dry	1-12	Sairam Reddy (1-12)	
5	94	Patta	Dry	0-04 1/2	Guvvala Anjaiah S/o Venkataiah (0-01 1/2)	
6	95	Patta	Dry	0-05	Guvvala Mallaiiah S/o Narasiah (0-05)	
7	93	Patta	Dry	0-14 1/2	Guvvala Narasaiah S/o Sailu (0-03 1/2) Guvvala Ramasailu S/o Sailu (0-11)	
8	92	Patta	Dry	0-28	Nadagam Murthamma W/o Siddaiah (0-28)	
Total				7-30 1/2		
Janagaon Total: 14-09						
Pembarthi Total: 4-39 1/2						
Kallam Total: 7-30 1/2						
Grand Total: 26-39						
Village: Janagaon Mandal: Janagaon District: Janagaon						
Trees				Structures		
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plnty area		
Nil				Nil		
Village: Pembarthi Mandal: Janagaon District: Janagaon						
Trees				Structures		
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plnty area		
Nil				Nil		
Village: Kallam Mandal: Lingalaphanapur District: Janagaon						
Trees				Structures		
Sy No.	Variety	Number	Typ	Plnty area		
Nil				Nil		
Village: Janagaon Mandal: Janagaon District: Janagaon						
2R of D6 Cheetadour Right Main Canal From Km. 0.000 to 0.425						
Dist. Collector Janagaon File No. G3/3019/2017, Date: -09-2020						
Dist Collector Gazette No. JN/LA/ /2020, Date: -09-2020						
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. C/517/2017 Date: -09-2020						
Sl. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area Under Cultivation (in aunes)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	303	Patta	Dry	0-14	Garneboina Silikaiah S/o Mallaiiah (0-08) Pali Naresih S/o Venkataiah (0-01) Bandaru Swetha W/o Pradeep Kumar (0-01 3/4) Plots (0-03 1/4)	
2	323	Patta	Dry	1-04	Plots (0-08 3/4) Plots (0-16) Plots (0-03) Plot (Bata)(0-01 1/4) Plots (0-15)	
3	322	Patta	Dry	0-16	Karre Ram Narasiah S/o Agamallaiiah (0-13) Karre Krishna S/o Agamallaiiah (0-03)	
4	321	Patta	Dry	0-12 1/2	Bypass Road (0-12) Bypass Road (0-00 1/4) Karre Krishna S/o Agamallaiiah (0-00 1/4)	
Total				2-06 1/2		



INDIA, US INK DEFENCE PACT

Pompeo says US stands with India, mentions killing of Indian soldiers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the US signed the landmark defence pact, BECA, that will allow sharing of high-end military technology, geospatial maps and classified satellite data between their militaries as the two countries held a high-level dialogue on Tuesday, and vowed to ramp up their security ties and boost strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific amidst China's growing economic and military clout in the region.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held the third edition of the 2+2 talks with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper. Both sides were assisted by their top military and security officials.

The high-level interaction assumes significance as it comes at a time China is attempting to expand its economic and military clout in the Indo-Pacific region, and is also engaged in a tense standoff with India in eastern Ladakh. During the talks, the US side also assured India that America stands with it as they confront threats to their sovereignty and liberty. Addressing a joint media event along with Jaishankar, Pompeo and Esper, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the two sides held comprehensive discussion on range of key issues, and dubbed the inkling of BECA with the US is a 'significant move'.

"Our military-to-military cooperation with the US is mov-

The US and India are taking steps to strengthen cooperation against all manners of threats and not just those posed by the CCP, Pompeo said

ing forward very well," he said, adding that projects for joint development of defence equipment have been identified.

"We reaffirmed our commitment to peace and security in Indo-Pacific region," Singh said.

Pompeo, in his remarks, said during the visit they visited the war memorial to honour the soldiers that sacrificed their lives for the world's largest democracy, including the 20 that were killed by China's PLA forces in the Galwan Valley in June.

"The US will stand with people of India as they confront threats to their sovereignty and to their liberty", Pompeo asserted.

Slamming the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Pompeo said the US leaders and citizens see with increasing clarity that the "CCP is no friend to democracy, the rule of law and transparency".

The US and India are taking steps to strengthen cooperation against all manners of threats and not just those posed by the CCP, Pompeo added.

'Arrogant' Bihar govt deviated from its path:sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day before the first phase of voting in Bihar Assembly election, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday accused the JDU-BJP government of being high on power, arrogant and deviating from its path, as she made a fervent appeal to the electorate to herald a change in the state and build a 'new Bihar'. In a four-minute video message in Hindi, she claimed the present dispensation led by Nitish Kumar was "neither saying good nor doing good" while the labourers were helpless, farmers upset and youth disappointed with it. "Drunk on power and arrogance, the government in Bihar has deviated from its path.

Samajwadi Party eyes upcoming bypolls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said his party is set on returning to power in Uttar Pradesh in the 2022 assembly elections and next month's bypolls for seven seats will mark a beginning towards that goal. "The party's target is the next Assembly election and its beginning is being made through the coming by-elections in which SP's performance would be good. The next elections will decide the future of the country's politics," the party chief told newsmen here.

Arts can create climate of sensitivity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Shabana Azmi says she is an optimist by nature and believes art can nurture a "climate of sensitivity" which in turn can spur societal change.

This is why, the actor said, she decided to star in "Kaali Kuhu" (Black Well), a horror thriller directed by Terrie Samundra which explores the enduring impact of female foeticide, a malpractice still prevalent in India. Azmi, known for her powerhouse performances in films like "Ankur", "Mandi", "Khand har", "Fire", "Godmother", exploring the genre for the second time after Vishal Bhardwaj's 2002 horror comedy "Makdee".

Set in a Punjab village, the Netflix Original film traces the journey of a girl named Shivangi (Riva Arora), who is put to the ultimate test when she witnesses her entire family fall deeper into the secrets of the black well.

Azmi, 70, said it is "outrageous" that female foeticide continues to exist in the 21st century India when addressing this should



be the first step towards women empowerment.

"Female foeticide and infanticide exist all around - not in the back or beyond only but in our metropolitan cities too. And yet we aren't as focused on it as we should be. The right to be born is taken away from a girl just because she is a girl." That has to be the starting point of any work that you do about a girl who doesn't even have a right to be born. How cruel, unjust and unacceptable that is? We are a patriarchal society. We entitle the boy from birth just for being male and the girl is made to go through a lot of discrimination," Azmi, also an activist, told PTI in an interview over Zoom.

Bihar's new chapter

As the State goes to the polls today, the question is whether BJP will sweep federalism away or a young Tejashwi can halt the tide



This is probably one time when Nitish Kumar is relevant because of his irrelevance. And his young opponents, sons of his peers, thought to be irrelevant, are carving their own generational relevance at his jaded expense. The Janata Dal (United) leader and Bihar Chief Minister is for all practical purposes a face that nobody wants to see despite the BJP's repeated endorsement of him as a chief ministerial candidate. And for a short time he may own the chair, towed by his hefty alliance partners, who don't want to be seen as sinking him mid-course or appear unprincipled. For a man, who was once seen as a messianic figure and

deeply trusted to pull the State out from the dark ages of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Yadav's misrule, he has ended up being as one of its worst performers. For all the gush of the early years and the morality of prohibition, he stumbled and fumbled along the way without notching up the State's development index significantly. And the pandemic sealed his fate as an inept administrator who had bungled on rehabilitating returnee migrants, students and flood refugees. For an entire generation growing up under Nitish's rule, development has still been a pipe dream. Politically, the man who crafted his survival by pitting the majoritarian BJP against the secular-socialist Lalu, swinging between both depending on trade winds, and retaining the throne in the bargain, is now trapped by his own machinations. He cannot go back to Lalu, having shut the door forever when he deserted him and chose the BJP. And his relationship with the BJP, built on political expediency, is coming apart as its ideological push is against the grain of his inclusive politics. And although he crafted a new caste equation, rallying the downtrodden and nowhere people, the extreme backward castes and Mahadalits, that, too, can no longer be overplayed in a statewide epidemic of joblessness and hopelessness. At one time an asset as a regional leader, today Nitish is the BJP's biggest liability. He knows that and can scarcely do anything about it except give in to uncharacteristically angry outbursts. The BJP, by all estimates so far, is expected to be the biggest gainer in these elections, and will be charioting Nitish. For long, it has been ambitious about being the single largest party in the State and having its own CM face but publicly, it didn't want to appear as an unreliable ally, which used regional partners for its own benefit and gobbled them up in the end. And despite promising big economic packages and special status in 2015, it didn't quite push them, unwilling to benefit Nitish by association. But it did push the Modi aura and Central schemes aggressively and even deployed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is the new-found favourite of Bihar's electorate, comprising a large number of migrants and students, whom Nitish did not want to accept for fear of a disease spread but who found a home at camps in UP. And for all the public denials of losing faith in Nitish and denouncing co-ally Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan for contesting against JD(U) outside the NDA fold, the fact is it wants the exact opposite. Chirag has been relentless and savage in his criticism of Nitish and proportionately laudatory about Modi, even vowing a life-long commitment to him and promising a BJP-LJP Government. The tacit support is evident as the central BJP leadership has barely pulled up Chirag in public or shared the stage, Modi included, with Nitish. If the verdict swings decisively in the BJP's favour, then there's no guarantee how long it will continue to back its CM nominee. As more and more of its allies get pushed into a corner, are choked and part ways, like the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in Punjab, the big question arising out of the Bihar results, assuming the BJP does deepen its footprint, will be whether the central party's new target will be co-optive federalism, transplanting regional satraps with single-party rule in States and subverting the local agenda altogether. In his speeches, Modi has largely focussed on Central achievements than his plans for the State. The BJP's biggest strength, that of the Modi aura, is also its biggest handicap at the State-level where it lacks magnetic leaders. The halo is good for swinging a verdict but deliverables need to be felt at the State level with a well-meaning leader.

It is here that RJD leader and Lalu's son Tejashwi Yadav has undoubtedly seized the narrative in the public imagination. The huge crowds may not be a litmus test of a vote shift but he has certainly given what would have been a colourless election a talking point. Criticised much for not performing as Nitish's deputy and cooling heels in Delhi, he has woken up to the duty of legacy, parked himself in the State, worked the grassroots and built a connect across segments. He knows full well that he cannot fill his father's big shoes just yet and that RJD would still get the traditional caste-based loyalty and minority votes based on Lalu's goodwill. He also knows that people know why his father is incarcerated, because of the scams in his time. So he wants to carve out a broader constituency for himself that is more contextual than historic, which will focus on what he has to offer afresh and help him bury taints of the past. So instead of harping on the RJD's core plank of caste, he has made unemployment of the State's youth the pivot of his campaign, promising 10 lakh jobs to the surging crowds that gathered to hear him out. Such was the impact of his speeches that the BJP, while appearing unfazed, had to promise 19 lakh jobs in its manifesto as a reactive strategy. He has even co-opted the Left to appeal to all marginalised voters irrespective of caste and evolved an inclusive umbrella of those cheated by the NDA-Nitish combine. In that sense, he embodies Bihar's cure. Question is if he is too late for this round?

Be prepared

As India and the US enter into more formal agreements on the military front, we are also making major operational adjustments



The founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, had a simple motto for the children who signed up. Just "be prepared", he would say. Twice in the space of 20 years, India's military intelligence and border guards have been caught napping, first during the Kargil intrusion and then the recent events in eastern Ladakh. The ferocious riposte by our soldiers has caught the enemy off-guard in both instances albeit with a heavy price in blood. However, the recent incident with the Chinese has led to further strengthening of the India-US military relationship and the presence of the US Secretaries of State and Defence

in New Delhi a week ahead of the presidential election is a sign that this will be priority for any regime that comes in. The signing of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), the fourth and final foundational agreement between both nations, is significant. While this does not mean that India and the US are military partners or are close to forming any alliance, it does set in stone the military partnership for the coming decades, particularly with respect to the Indo-Pacific where China wants to make a mark.

In addition to these changes, there is also the dramatic shift in India's own military preparedness with the creation of five theatre commands and finally better integration between the various arms of the forces. Until now, communications frequencies of the three forces were separate even in an era of combined arms warfare. That it took the lives of 20 of our gallant soldiers to commit to such changes is tragic but it appears that the loss of Colonel Babu and his men will not have been in vain. An integrated northern command keeping an eye on China is a start but India needs to dramatically improve its intelligence gathering resources and on that front, the collaboration with the US will help tremendously. One thing is certain now, while China might benefit from a less aggressive Democratised US, India is certain to have a permanent ally. India is preparing to be prepared.



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

There have been plenty of debates and discourses about the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) but not many focussed on its implementation. No doubt, the NEP is the most progressive and futuristic document and if implemented with sincerity in letter and spirit, it has a tectonic potential to transform India from an educationally lagged nation into a knowledge superpower. Indeed we have never had any education system, only a system of examinations and that, too, an inefficient one, based on rote learning that kills all creativity and innovation. The NEP aspires to transform this moribund system by aiming to produce "good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals," who are needed to transform the 21st century India. But it has failed to provide a specific implementation roadmap, except specifying some broad targets.

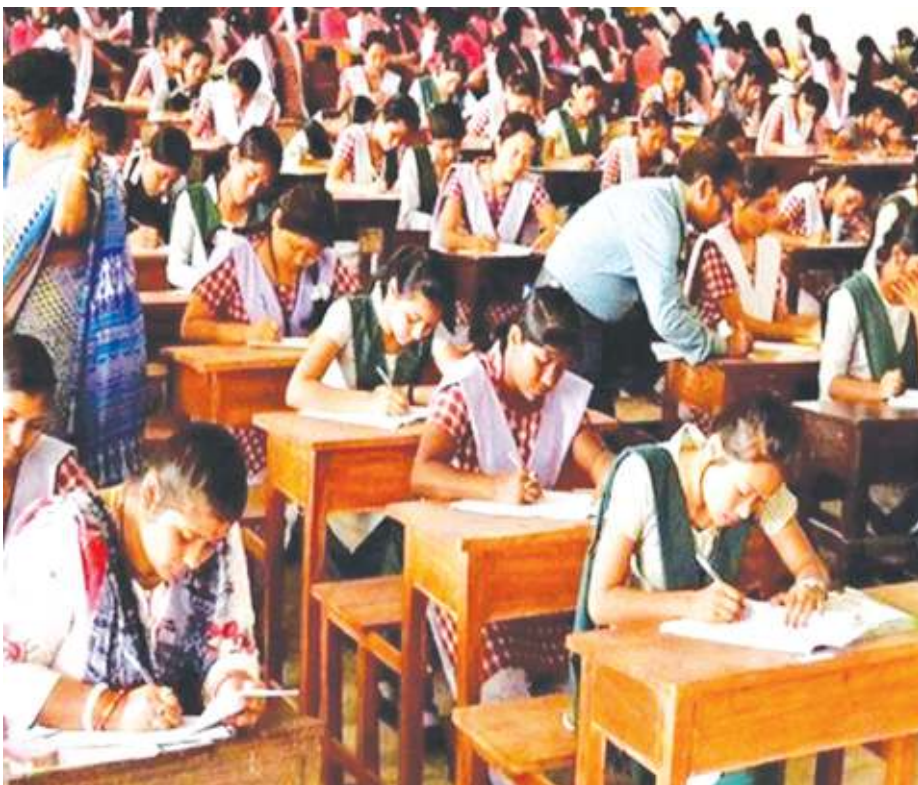
Neither has it prescribed any accountability mechanism for its implementation. But most importantly, any great idea like this needs great finances. Education being a concurrent subject, both the Centre and the States need to share the responsibility for its implementation as well as finances. But the NEP has almost skirted the issue altogether.

The higher education in the country has seen phenomenal growth during the last two decades. The number of colleges, universities and students has quadrupled since 2001, and the private sector has grown much faster than the public institutions. Today, we have 993 universities, about 40,000 colleges and 10,000 standalone institutions, and nearly four crore students. But unfortunately, most of these institutions produce unemployable graduates and postgraduates annually, with very little knowledge and skill.

If we can forget for a moment our current military standoff with China, a comparison with that country might be instructive in many respects. In *India Unlimited: Reclaiming the Lost Glory*, Arvind Panagariya has provided some tell-tell statistics about China and India. Based on the Scopus database of articles published and cited in international journals, the National Science Foundation of US brings out annual rankings of different countries. In 1996, in almost all subject areas, China and India were ranked more or less evenly. In fact, India was a tad better. In terms of the total citations, India was ranked 19th

NEP: Promise or platitude?

Without increasing public investment, neither the infrastructure, nor the standards required for the New Education Policy 2020 can be achieved



amongst all countries, while China was ranked 21st. In social sciences, India was ranked 21st against China's 24th, in chemistry and molecular sciences, India was ranked 11th and in physics 17th against China's 13th in both. But by 2017, China moved far ahead of us in all subjects — third in terms of total citations against India's 14th. In social sciences, chemistry and physics, China ranked fifth, first and second while India lagged way behind with 14th, fifth and eighth ranks respectively in these subjects. In the Times Higher Education Ranking 2020, China has three universities among the top 100 of the world, four in the next 100 and altogether 72 among the top 1,000. India has none among the first 200 and 36 among the top 1,000, half of China's 72.

How could China race so much ahead of us in just two decades? Actually, it had started its economic liberalisation in 1976, a good 15 years ahead of us. But it started reforming the education system in 1995, 25 years ahead of us. It realised that to become a great power and a great nation, the primary need is to have a good system of education.

What is a good system of education? If we take the US as the model, we would appreciate that a good system of education needs basically two things: adequate funding and decentralised governance with a very high degree of autonomy to the institutions. The US universities have complete autonomy in deciding admission, courses and faculty and they compete amongst

themselves to attract the best faculty, students and research endowment funds. They function independent of federal and State Government regulations with practically no interference by the State.

We had inherited a colonial legacy of higher education where universities were primarily tasked with granting degrees with very little focus on research, and by and large, we still remain the same. China has modelled its system of education in the Soviet-style after 1949 but Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution nearly did it in. Then in 1995, as Panagariya informs, it launched the so-called Project 211 with the slogan: "For the 21st century, manage the top 100 universities successfully." In 1998, it passed the Higher Education Law, which liberalised and decentralised its higher education just like the US, with academic and administrative freedom given to higher educational institutions (HEIs). That law recognised the need for ensuring adequate funding and allowed tuition fees to be hiked by the universities, with State subsidies for those who couldn't afford it. So the tuition fees rose steeply from ₹600 in 1992 to ₹10,000 by mid-2010. The Project 211 funded \$4.6 billion (30 per cent on infrastructure) to 107 universities between 1995 and 2005. In 1998, China launched another project — Project 985 — to create world-class universities out of the 107 universities selected for Project 211. Under this, the top two universities (Peking and Tsinghua) received \$240 million for three

years. By 2007, the project had covered 39 universities. Of these, 27 are now ranked within the top 600 universities of the world.

The NEP has correctly identified many of the problems that beset our higher education system — like a severely fragmented ecosystem characterised by a rigid separation of disciplines with little emphasis on cognitive skills, learning outcomes or quality research, limited institutional autonomy, poor leadership and ineffective regulatory and governance systems. The result is that the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is a paltry 26 per cent compared to 58 per cent in Senior Secondary and 79 per cent in Secondary schooling. The NEP promises to correct this by focussing on multi-disciplinarity, flexibility, emphasis on skill acquisition and quality research. To fix the problems, it prescribes that there would no more be any rigid separation between arts and sciences, curricular and extra-curricular activities, or vocational and academic streams. Students will select subjects of their choosing across all streams to excel wherever they can and discover their aptitude and potential. For this, it prescribes a roadmap of credit-based undergraduate degree courses with multiple exit options.

It has also suggested a new institutional framework comprising a new overarching body — the Higher Education Commission of India — with four verticals for regulation, accreditation, funding and learning outcomes, which will end the

multiple conflicts of interest that bedevil our current regulatory system. Research gets the maximum emphasis with a National Research Foundation to "seed, grow and facilitate research" in academic institutions. Most importantly, the NEP recognises that the HEIs need to be depoliticised and educationists appointed on their Board of Governance instead of bureaucrats. But given the present stranglehold of retired bureaucrats and politicians over the HEIs and their stubborn objections to any reform, it would be difficult to end their dominance over our higher education anytime soon.

The most revolutionary part of the NEP is perhaps its single-minded focus on multi-disciplinarity by creating large universities and HEI clusters and ending the present system of affiliated colleges. But such a major shift would also need enormous resources, and it is here that the NEP disappoints. The total combined public expenditure on education by the Centre and the States, currently at only about four per cent of GDP, falls way behind the target of six per cent envisaged in all our previous education policies. Consequently, our expenditure on research remains a pathetic 0.69 per cent of GDP. Without investment, neither the infrastructure nor the standards required for the NEP would be achieved.

The NEP only paid some lip-service to this crucial element — by hoping that the Centre and the States will work together to raise expenditure to six per cent of GDP which it recognises as essential for "progress and growth." But it stops short of recommending that a law should be enacted to enforce the same. Thus, there is neither any commitment nor an accountability structure built into the NEP to ensure implementation. Maybe the committee had felt restrained by pandemic-related budgetary stress. This would be over some day but the future will not wait.

Meanwhile, universities can think of going beyond operating from their individual silos. They can form provincial and regional consortiums for better synergy. By mapping their educational resources and sharing these among themselves, they can together provide students access to the best facilities. Each institution can expand capacity in its strength area to optimise investment and specialisation and share this through a network of institutions. The mantra should be to give access to quality learning to all who desire to learn.

(The writer is former Director-General from the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and an academic)

SOUNDBITE

Minorities in India have been under continuous suppression. Lockdown in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is the worst example of suppression and barbarity.



Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan

International cooperation is the only way to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency, rising inequality and the spreading of hatred.



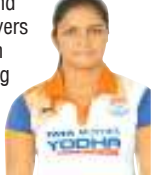
UN Secretary-General —Antonio Guterres

We had taken up a target of covering at least two people in each panchayat who are in need of financial assistance. I'm happy to announce that we have covered nearly 10,000 cases.



J&K Lieutenant Governor —Manoj Sinha

The plan for the Olympics is very clear to everyone and more importantly all players are clear about their own roles. Everyone is gaining confidence day by day.



Hockey player —Navjot Kaur

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new Bill

Sir — As the world continues to live with the Coronavirus and there is no vaccine in sight, Governments across the world are trying everything possible to curb its spread. In a first, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that he is considering to make wearing face masks mandatory in the State by proposing a Bill in the forthcoming Assembly session. Interacting with district collectors, college principals and other officials through a video conference on October 27, Gehlot said that every section of society should join the Government's initiative and make it successful. Given the fact that many are reluctant to follow the necessary precautions even during these trying times, passing a law to implement the same might help curb the spread of the virus, especially since we have just entered the festive season.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

Free vaccine?

Sir — The announcement of free Corona vaccine in the poll-bound State of Bihar by the BJP

Air quality in Delhi worsens after Dussehra

Air pollution levels in Delhi have drastically increased after the city celebrated Dussehra and burnt firecrackers in the process. The concentration of pollutants nearly doubled post the celebrations but bear in mind that Diwali is yet to come and with it, the Air Quality Index (AQI) will deteriorate further. However, this has become a yearly phenomenon and the problem lies with the Government taking only reactive measures like Graded Response Action Programme (GRAP) rather than opting for institutional steps before the quality of air decreases. In these grim times when the entire world is fighting the pandemic, this is aggravating our chances of falling sick.

Burning of agricultural waste in Punjab and Haryana is the main reason for the high air pollution levels and the Centre and State Governments should introduce an action plan to recycle the waste. Alternative uses of crop stubble should be discovered and made viable for the farmers. Improving public transport, increasing the use of clean renewable energy, using more electric vehi-



cles, introducing less polluting fuel and strict emission regulations can also keep us away from serious detriments. Obviously, there is no quick fix for reducing air pollution, it requires a series of different actions. However, the time has come to prioritise people's health by controlling the factors which affect the quality of air.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli
Hyderabad

should not agitate those in the Opposition as people are well aware that such a promise will not be translated into action. It is no secret that scientists across the globe are racing to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 which has killed over 1.16 million people globally. And several dozen vaccine candidates are currently undergoing clinical trials. So, if and when a vaccine does work,

every citizen of the country should get the vaccine free of cost. BJP's sad attempt to lure the electorate in Bihar with "free vaccine" has not worked but it has definitely started a debate on whether these kinds of promises should be allowed to be made during elections. Also, while the BJP is trying to play the COVID card, it seems to have forgotten to take the basic preventive measures

during its rallies where people are neither following social distancing nor wearing masks. It is crucial to remember that such mass gatherings can easily become large virus spreading events. Though the BJP claims to be concerned about the people of Bihar, in reality, its only concern is winning the elections.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Goa's blue economy

Sir — Goa's locational advantages have allowed it to exploit economic gains from tourism and fisheries. While arguments over the under-utilisation of the available resources to boost marine tourism cannot be overlooked, it must be said that the ingenuity of locals in tapping the business potential from the ocean has been less innovative and more destructive. The matter of big trawler owners using Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights to net a better catch of fish comes readily to one's mind. Given its natural dependence on marine assets, the State could only be charting a disastrous course if it doesn't follow eco-friendly practices. Hence the foundation stone ceremony of the construction of a common facility centre for the Konkani Maritime Cluster at Verna Industrial Estate could be seen as a welcome step towards the State reaping the benefits of a sustainable ocean-based development pathway.

Pachu Menon
Margao

Send your feedback to:
letterstopi-

FIRST COLUMN

Next poll stop in Tamil Nadu

One thing is for sure, the Sasikala and Rajinikanth factors will certainly play out in the 2021 elections in the State



KALYANI SHANKAR

The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu (TN) is quietly preparing to face the Assembly elections scheduled for early next year. With just a few months left for the polls, the party is sorting out its internal problems by declaring the incumbent Chief Minister E Palaniswami (EPS) as its chief ministerial candidate and sidelining the other claimant and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS). Significantly, the 2021 polls will be the first without the two icons, M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalithaa, and will be a litmus test for the AIADMK and DMK leadership. In fact, none of the two parties has a charismatic leadership and more importantly, no party has ever had a hat-trick so far.

Though the fight is between the two major Dravidian parties, there are two X factors. The first is Sasikala Natarajan, companion and confidante of Jayalalithaa for years. Sentenced to four years in jail in a disproportionate assets case, she will come out of prison in February 2021. She has enough money and political skills to either take over the AIADMK or join hands with her nephew TTV Dinakaran. He has floated an outfit (Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam) of which Sasikala is the chief. So far Sasikala has kept her cards close to her chest. *Chinnamma*, as she is affectionately called by her followers, Sasikala has many loyalists within the AIADMK, too, as she was a major force during Amma's time.

Sasikala's re-entry in the Tamil political scene at this time might ruffle many feathers. The only consolation is that as per law she cannot contest elections for the next six years. The party backed Sasikala soon after the demise of Jayalalithaa but after her sentencing, it united under EPS. The Chief Minister believes that his Government has managed to deliver on several fronts, including the management of the Coronavirus crisis, and he has strengthened himself within the party and the Government. Second, it is not clear whether *Chinnamma* will continue to have the same clout in the influential Thevar community, whom she empowered earlier. Third, Sasikala could also break the AIADMK and draw the disgruntled elements in the party to her side.

Fourth, the party faces several other challenges, including anti-incumbency, internal instability, the absence of a charismatic leader, and the onslaught of the DMK, which has been painting the EPS Government as weak and a pawn in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is not surprising as the BJP has so far controlled the AIADMK Government from Delhi as EPS has a good equation with the Centre. The BJP has also worked to keep the party united in the State. It has no interest in dealing with Sasikala or her nephew and the sudden raid on Sasikala's property in Poes Garden last month reveals the party's strategy. Sasikala plans to move into the palatial mansion which she is currently constructing opposite Jayalalithaa's house in Poes Garden. As many as 64 of her properties have been attached, too.

The second unknown factor is the Tamil superstar Rajinikanth. Though he is depending on his fan clubs, it is not known whether he has the skills to organise and run his proposed party. Though wooed equally by the Congress and the BJP, it was only in 2017 that Rajinikanth announced his intention to launch a political party, ending two decades of suspense. In March he announced that his proposed party would contest all 234 seats in the Assembly elections. Rajinikanth is now focussed on strengthening Rajini Makkal Mandrams (a political variant of his fan clubs).

He also stated that issues such as power-sharing in case of an alliance with fellow superstar Kamal Haasan, who had floated his Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) last year, would be discussed only ahead of the polls. Together, the two superstars would certainly draw a huge crowd but their vote-catching capacity is as yet unknown. Rajinikanth has been out of touch with the masses due to the contagion while Kamal's party got just two per cent votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and failed to win any seat. Rajinikanth wants to fill the huge political vacuum left by Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi. "This is the opportune time to create a movement (to oust the Dravidian behemoths). If not now, it will be never," he commented some time ago. The superstar once declared that he would not project himself as the chief ministerial candidate and would prefer to nominate someone young for the job in 2021. This clearly shows that he wants to be a puppeteer. However, many of Rajinikanth's fans believe in his famous dialogue from the blockbuster movie *Muththu*, "Nobody knows when I will come, how I will come, but I will be there when the time comes."

The political momentum and regrouping of parties will pick up in the next few weeks. As of now, it will be a huge challenge for Rajinikanth to fight the cadre-based Dravidian parties. He might have an alliance with the BJP given his Right-wing sympathies. The forthcoming polls in TN will show whether the arithmetic or the chemistry of the players wins. One thing is for sure, the Sasikala and Rajinikanth factors will play out certainly.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

UDDHAV DID NOT SAY A WORD ABOUT THE CONGRESS CRITICISING SAVARKAR AND NOW HE HAD TO ADDRESS A RALLY FROM SAVARKAR AUDITORIUM. POETIC JUSTICE —MAHARASHTRA BJP SPOKESPERSON KESHAV UPADHYE

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THOSE WHO ARE RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT US... WHY ARE THEY NOT GIVING THE BHARAT RATNA TO VEER SAVARKAR, THE MENTOR OF HINDUTVA? —SHIV SENA'S CHIEF SPOKESPERSON SANJAY RAUT

The FCRA fracas

When a few entities flout norms, the governmental system reacts by clamping down with more controls, inspections, reports, which are a hassle for all



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play an important role in the development of society and a country. In India, too, many NGOs are engaged in implementing Government schemes to help the poor and many of them have their own ways of aiding the underprivileged, restoring human rights or working for the environment and so on. However, friction between NGOs and the Government arises when foreign-funded ones venture into prohibited areas like politics and take a stand on communal and social disharmony. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976, was enacted to regulate foreign funding, requiring prior permission or intimation of/to the Government. While retaining the basic framework, the Act was rewritten in 2010 and amended in the last Parliament session in September. The law aimed at curbing foreign funding influencing politics, religious conversions and fomenting strife among communities. We are a proud, open democracy. Like any human institution, our systems may not be perfect. We do have problems to resolve but we don't need foreigners who try to accentuate divisions, disaffection and alienation among people, playing on the insecurities of the wronged, deprived and misguided sections.

The NGOs engaged in "proxy politics" were unwelcome right from 1976. If they fish in troubled waters, they will face a pushback. They are free to go to undemocratic countries to help their voiceless people if they are allowed to operate there. Specifically, the 1976 Act banned election candidates, "correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper", judges and Government/PSU employees, legislators, political parties and their office-bearers from accepting any foreign funds. (The 2010 Act added television and digital media too.) It prohibited "organisations of a political nature, not being a political party" from accepting any foreign contribution directly or indirectly through any proxy without prior permission of the Government.

It allowed non-political entities "having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme" to receive foreign assistance provided they register with the Government and keep it informed about its quantum, source, time, purpose, bank account and actual utilisation. But the 2010 Act tightened control on ultimate recipients of foreign contributions by stipulating that FCRA-registered entities can transfer funds only to other FCRA-registered/regulated entities. The recent 2020 amendment has totally banned transfer of funds to others. The receiving NGO must spend all foreign contribution itself. It cannot become a distributing intermediary. The 1976 Act authorised the Government to deny access to foreign contributions if it prejudicially affected the sovereignty and integrity of India; or public interest; or freedom/fairness of election to any legislature; or friendly relations with any foreign State; harmony between religious, racial, linguistic, regional, social groups, castes or communities. The term "social" was added in 2010. The evolution of the FCRA law clearly shows its basic intent: Foreigners indulging in local politics are not welcome. The legislative intent was to curb foreign interference in domestic politics, the media, judiciary and the Government.

Critics saw the law as an attempt to clamp down on political dissent and the religious freedom of people to preach and of citizens to change their faith if they so wished. There was also criticism that the broad, vague restrictions for NGO funding and operations would have a stifling effect on the constitu-

“ LIKE ANY HUMAN INSTITUTION, OUR SYSTEMS MAY NOT BE PERFECT. WE DO HAVE PROBLEMS TO RESOLVE BUT WE DON'T NEED FOREIGNERS WHO TRY TO ACCENTUATE DIVISIONS, DISAFFECTION AND ALIENATION AMONG PEOPLE, PLAYING ON THE INSECURITIES OF THE WRONGED, DEPRIVED AND MISGUIDED SECTIONS ”



tionally guaranteed rights to freedom of association, expression and assembly. Plus there were fears that with the amendments, the Government had expanded its own discretion, bureaucratic control and oversight with respect to the day-to-day functioning of NGOs in India and left them vulnerable to partisan behaviour and favouritism. While basic human rights are assured by India to everyone, including foreigners, some rights are available only to Indian citizens. Foreigners everywhere are expected to comply with local laws. Foreign debt, equity and grants are regulated when they prejudicially affect national security, local culture, education, religion and social harmony. If an NGO indulges in political and religious activities, it is bound to invite political backlash. The following amendments to the FCRA Act have generated controversy.

Cap on administrative expenses: The 2010 Act stipulated a ceiling of 50 per cent on administrative expenses, which can be relaxed with the approval of the Government. The recent amendment has reduced this 50 per cent to 20 per cent. NGOs must seek Government approval to exceed the 20 per cent limit with proper justification (like expenses on a non-recurring event or being advocacy NGOs, not having projects). NGOs should spend more on implementation of projects, help poor beneficiaries rather than lavishly spend on their salaries, office rent, allied charges, business class travel, expensive event venues and so on. Only 1,328 NGOs reported administrative expenses over 20 per cent in 2018-19.

AADHAAR/Passport/Overseas Citizenship of India card for key managerial personnel: The new law requires NGOs to furnish Aadhaar numbers of all key functionaries while seeking FCRA registration, renewal of registration or prior permission to obtain foreign contribution. For foreigners/OCIs, a copy of passport or OCI card will do. This is a one-time requirement.

Routing of funds through a bank account in the SBI: The new law requires foreign contributions to be routed through a bank account with the SBI in New Delhi. From there, funds can go to other FCRA accounts and these must not receive other funding to avoid mixing of regulated and unregulated funds. NGOs can continue using their preferred bank account after foreign funding inflows pass through this SBI account. This is a one-time hassle. NGOs don't need to come to Delhi. They can approach the nearest SBI branch. Of the 21,490 NGOs filing FCRA returns in 2018-19, 1,488 were Delhi-registered. As many as 2,214 NGOs were registered in three years between 2017 and 2019. The SBI is expected to facilitate/fast-track the process. The Government may give some transition time so that the fund flow does not come to a halt during the current pandemic.

NGOs can't be financial intermediaries to route foreign contributions: The most substantive change in the 2020 amendment is that an FCRA-registered NGO cannot transfer funds to other NGOs. It has to directly spend all foreign funds it receives. Under the 2010 law, such transfer was permitted to other FCRA-registered entities. So bigger NGOs could act as a funnel to route foreign funds to grassroots organisations. Now these larger NGOs will have to re-orient their working to start either direct spending or start connecting foreign donors and FCRA-registered grassroots organisations. Foreign funds will bypass the bank accounts of these intermediary NGOs and go directly to the ultimate beneficiary NGOs.

Foreign funds received by NGOs totalled ₹18,337.66 crore in 2016-17, ₹19,764.64 crore in 2017-18 and ₹20,011.21 crore in 2018-19. About half of 21,490 NGOs filing returns in 2018-19 reported nil foreign grants in 2018-19.

In 2018-19, 4,107 NGOs received ₹1,768 crore as re-grants from bigger NGOs, with a median transfer value of ₹7.6 lakh. Half of them received less than

₹7.6 lakh. Pruning of intermediation cost would mean more bang for the buck for genuine foreign donors. It will help the Government to know which foreign donor is funding which Indian NGO. Intermediary NGOs were an obstruction to this transparency and may be adding to the cost. Sub-granting entailed double counting of foreign contribution, by intermediary and final recipient. Who received what and from which foreign donor was unclear. Transparency should be welcomed. Of course, to avoid sudden disruption of fund flow during the pandemic, some transition time should be allowed.

Non-compliance: The 2010 Act barred following types of entities from getting/renewing FCRA registration: Fictitious or *benami* entities; entities prosecuted or convicted for indulging in activities aimed at religious conversions through inducement or force; prosecuted or convicted for creating communal tension; found guilty of diversion or misutilisation of funds; engaged in propagation of sedition or advocating violent methods to achieve its ends; using foreign contributions for personal gains or diverting for undesirable purposes.

The Government has strengthened the mechanism to root out non-compliant NGOs. The period of cancellation of registration has been changed from up to 180 days to 360 days. The FCRA registrations of 14,500 NGOs were cancelled in five years ending December 2019. These were mostly duplicate registrations held by some NGOs. Failure to file annual returns also invited some cancellations as was the case with the crackdown on shell companies. In 2017-18, names of 2.26 lakh companies were struck off.

When a few entities flout norms, the governmental system reacts by clamping down with more controls, inspections, reports, which are a hassle for all. But it is necessary to keep errant NGOs in line.

(The writer former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

Still awaiting an inclusive election

The political participation of *divyangs* and the elderly remains slim even though 2019 was pitched to be 'Year of Accessible Elections' by EC



SANTOSH BISWAL

SHIBA PARHI

With Bihar Assembly elections beginning today, political parties have been busy wooing voters with major sops. The BJP's promise to provide free Coronavirus vaccines to all in poll-bound Bihar stirred a political controversy and drew the attention of the Election Commission of India (ECI). However, most parties are ignoring voters with disabilities.

About 13 per cent of the elderly and *divyang* voters have decided to opt for the postal ballot drop-off and pick-up facility for the first phase of the election. Significantly, Bihar is

the first State to go to the polls since the enactment of the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016. Though the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has made extensive efforts to ensure greater participation of *divyang* voters, there have been some oversights. In Bihar 50 per cent of *divyangs* do not use public transport and nearly 70 per cent do not access Government buildings. Only 40 per cent possess the disability certificate that is required to avail all governmental incentives. This is because to procure that certificate, they have to visit a primary health-care centre, which is usually situated too far from rural areas. Further, the job does not get done in one trip and they have to make frequent visits because of the callous attitude of the medical authorities.

However, Bihar cannot be singled out for such irregularities. Even though Delhi saw a rise in the number of *divyang* and elderly voters in the last Assembly election, polling

booths, help desks, obstacle-free, wide and levelled pathways to the voting compartment and ramps were not as per Government regulations. Previously, too, various States like Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh failed to organise the voting system for this disadvantaged segment.

Hence, the political participation of *divyangs* and the elderly remains slim even though 2019 was pitched to be the "Year of Accessible Elections" by the EC. The REV-UP campaign (Register-Enable-Vote) was badly affected and the political rights of the elderly and the *divyangs* have been denied.

Equity and inclusion remain a distant dream for the differently abled who constitute 2.21 per cent of our total population. Now, with the exercise of social distancing necessitated by the pandemic, meeting the pressing needs of the elderly and the *divyangs*, right from sourcing essential supplies to accessing medical treatment, has become problematic.

This has also made them doubly marginalised and invisible in these troubled times.

The Accessible India Campaign, launched by the Government in 2015, attempts to make the overall environment more inclusive for the differently-abled. However, the campaign for equal opportunities and protection of rights is still unheard of and unnoticed and has taken a back seat in Government agenda. The picture remains grim as State governments have not shown a good response. Despite the Accessible India Campaign, accessibility to public institutions remained a major challenge and as of today, several Government-run and aided institutions are not disabled-friendly.

If data provided by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) are to be believed, initially out of the 1,653 buildings audited by access auditors, State Governments had sent proposals for only 647. As many as 12 cities had not sent even

a single proposal. There have been glaring differences between the Centre and the States in terms of coordination, framing and execution of the policies for a barrier-free environment. Apart from accessibility issues, the differently-abled are subjected to socio-economic, educational and political deprivations.

The dimension of gender cannot be ignored, too, as 44 per cent of the total *divyangs* are women with challenges. Of this, around 21 per cent are married and divorce cases remain high for several reasons. Significantly around 69 per cent of the *divyangs* reside in rural India. The kind of predicament that the differently-abled face in rural pockets is significant. Yet, this is missing in the mainstream discourse and warrants urgent attention.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation reveals that 75 per cent of differently-abled children are deprived of elementary education. The scene is again dismal in higher education

because of varied reasons. Only about 28.8 per cent of the *divyangs* in the country possess the certificate of disability, which is required to avail their rights. As a result of this and due to the policy paralysis and inaccessibility pattern of workplaces, only 34 lakh *divyangs* out of 1.34 crore are employed in the country.

Recently, the Centre asked State Governments to make a list of the *divyangs* who are yet to be a part of the Public Distribution System and cover them under the National Food Security Act, 2013. However, the callous attitude of the State machinery is quite apparent.

There are umpteen cases which signal the violation of the human rights of the disabled. There should be an overhaul of public policy to mainstream this marginalised segment and achieve inclusive development.

(Biswal and Parhi are Assistant Professors at SIMC and SSBF respectively and are working at Symbiosis International, Pune)



FOREIGN EYE



NOT A JUST THING TO DO

The unpredictable American system of life tenure has led to four presidents picking six or more justices and four presidents selecting none, as happened with Jimmy Carter. This gives some presidents too much influence on the Supreme Court and others too little. It also leads to justices remaining on the court when they are unable either physically or mentally to do the job. This must change. (The NYT editorial)

E-commerce firms sell goods worth \$4 bn in first week of festive sale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce companies reported a 55 per cent jump in sale goods to USD 4.1 billion (Rs 29,000 crore) across platforms during the first week (October 15-21) of festive sales, research firm RedSeer said on Tuesday.

RedSeer, in its report, said the comparative number stood at USD 2.7 billion last year. RedSeer in its pre-festive sale had forecasted that platforms will clock USD 4 billion worth of sales this year.

Smartphones led the sale accounting for 47 per cent of total festive sales, driven by new launches and affordable models with Rs 1.5 crore worth of smartphones being sold



every minute across the online platforms in the first week of 2020's festive sales.

With a high share of tier-II and beyond shoppers coming in this time, Flipkart group emerged as overall leader during festive sales week one and accounted for 68 per cent of the total Flipkart group and

Amazon sales (which together accounted for over 90 per cent of the total online sales during this period), the report said.

"E-commerce sector has exceeded the aggressive forecasts we had made a few weeks before the festive season week 1 started out. This points to a revival of consumption senti-

Smartphones led the sale accounting for 47 per cent of total festive sales, driven by new launches and affordable models with Rs 1.5 crore worth of smartphones being sold every minute across online platforms in the first week of 2020's festive sales

ment amongst Indian shoppers, where they have been shopping online in big numbers driven by massive selection, great prices and the convenience and safety of shopping from home," Mrigank Gutgutia, Director at RedSeer Consulting, said. In many aspects this is indeed a festival of firsts' for Indian e-commerce which will build a strong foundation for its future

growth, he added. The key factors that majorly boosted this year's sale include affordability, mobile phones and tier-II growth wave. These factors directly resulted in recovery of sales for brands and sellers, who have been strongly enabled by the online channels, to drive their sales growth which was affected by the COVID impact on offline channels, RedSeer said.

RBI asks lending institutions to implement waiver of interest on interest scheme

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday asked all lending institutions, including non-banking financial companies, to implement the waiver of interest on interest for loans up to Rs 2 crore for the six months moratorium period beginning March 1, 2020.

On October 23, the government had announced the scheme for grant of ex-gratia payment of difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months to borrowers in specified loan accounts.

The scheme mandates ex-gratia payment to certain categories of borrowers by way of crediting the difference



between simple interest and compound interest for the period between March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 by respective lending institutions.

The government had asked the lending institutions to complete the exercise of crediting the amount in the

accounts of borrowers by November 5.

"All lending institutions are advised to be guided by the provisions of the Scheme and take necessary action within the stipulated timeline," the RBI said in a notification.

The finance ministry had issued the operational guidelines in the backdrop of the Supreme Court's direction to implement the interest waiver scheme.

The apex court on October 14, directed the Centre to implement "as soon as possible" interest waiver on loans of up to Rs 2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the COVID-19 pandemic saying the common man's Diwali is in the government's hands.

Housing loans, education loans, credit card dues, auto loans, MSME loans, consumer durable loans and consumption loans are covered under the scheme.

As per the scheme, the lending institutions shall credit the difference between compound interest and simple interest with regard to the eligible borrowers in respective accounts for the said period irrespective of whether the borrower fully or partially availed the moratorium on repayment of loan announced by the RBI on March 27, 2020.

The scheme is also applicable on those who have not availed the moratorium scheme and continued with the repayment of loans.

Granules India to set up Greenfield facilities in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two city-based pharma companies- Granules India and Laurus Labs on Tuesday separately announced major investments in Genome Valley.

Granules India said it would be setting up a facility with a capacity to manufacture 10 billion units of finished dosages at an investment of Rs 400 crore. The proposed unit would generate employment for about 1,600 people, an official release from Industries Minister K T Rama Raos office said.

Vistara to start flights to Bangla from Nov 5

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Tata-SIA joint venture airline Vistara on Tuesday said it will launch flight services to Bangladesh from India, starting November 5, under the recently signed air bubble agreement between the two countries.

Vistara's announcement comes a day after budget carrier SpiceJet said it will operate flights to Dhaka and port city Chittagong from India from November 5, using bilateral traffic rights under the air

bubble pact. Vistara will operate special, non-stop flights between Delhi and Bangladesh's capital city, Dhaka, from November 5, the airline said in a release. The services will be operated on Thursdays and Sundays between the two cities,



using the airline's Airbus A320neo aircraft, as part of the bilateral 'transport bubble' formed between India and Bangladesh, it said.

Air bubble agreement between two countries helps airlines to operate interna-

tional flights, with certain restrictions, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are glad to be able to consistently expand our international network and widen our global presence, despite the current challenging times," Vistara CEO Leslie Thng said. "There is significant pent up demand for air travel between India and Bangladesh, and the resumption of flights brings relief to the traders, business communities and other regular travellers in the two countries," Thng added.

Hubilo raises USD 4.5 mn from Lightspeed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hubilo, a global virtual events platform, has raised USD 4.5 million (about Rs 33.2 crore) in funding, led by venture capital firm Lightspeed.

Marquee tech angels, including Girish Mathrubootham (CEO Freshworks), Nishant Rao (ex-CEO LinkedIn India), Jonathan Boutelle (Co-founder, Slideshare), and Abinash Tripathy (CEO Helpshift) also participated in the seed funding round, Hubilo said in a statement late Monday night.

The company, which started its journey amidst the COVID crisis in April, has grown over 40X organically and is projected to exceed USD 10 million in booking run rate and host over one million attendees in the next few months, it added.

The USD 800 billion global events industry was one of the hardest hit by COVID-19 but organisers are migrating online rapidly and also expanding their attendee base.

Resumption of mining in Goa to give fillip to state economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) on Tuesday made a case for the resumption of mining in the state, saying it will give much needed fillip to the state's economy in form royalty and taxes and also prove to be a viable source of livelihood for the people in these trying times.

The prolonged economic slowdown followed by the Covid has adversely affected almost all the sectors of the state economy, it said. Mining is at a standstill and tourism, which was the highest revenue



generating sector for the state, has all but dried up and inflows of visitors are at a standstill, the GCCCI said. This has caused huge discomfort and financial distress to the state and its people, the industry body said

adding that it is estimated by various agencies that the state's tourism industry -- which is the second largest revenue earner in Goa -- has lost about Rs 1,000 crore worth of business because of the lockdown.

Gold declines Rs 137 amid tepid demand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital dropped Rs 137 to Rs 51,108 per 10 gram amid rupee appreciation and subdued demand, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 51,245 per 10 gram in the previous trade. Silver, however, rose by Rs 475 to Rs 62,648 per kilogram from Rs 62,173 per kilogram in the previous trade. "Gold prices in India traded under pressure as spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were weak by Rs 137 on rupee appreciation and subdued physical demand," Patel said.

Diversified product portfolio to reduce virus slowdown impact on chemical players: Icria

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With most basic chemical and petrochemical players having a diverse range of end-user industries, the impact of COVID-19 slowdown is likely to be moderated, ratings agency Icria said in a report.

While the industry may face near-term headwinds, the medium to long-term credit outlook remains stable for the industry, Icria said.

"Credit profiles of most of our rated basic chemical and petrochemical players are expected to remain resilient in 2020-21, supported by the diversification of products in their portfolio, wide applica-



tions of these chemicals and manageable leveraging levels," Icria Ratings Senior Vice President and Co-Head - Corporate

Ratings Ankit Patel said. "Despite the pronounced decline in revenues and margins in FY21, the credit profile

of most incumbents is supported by their large size, strong balance sheets, healthy liquidity, and strong financial flexibility," he added. The global chemical industry has been dealt a series of blows from closures related to COVID-19 pandemic, demand destruction and logistical challenges, the report said. The severity varies as consuming sectors such as automotive and construction have been majorly impacted, while food packaging, pharma, sanitary and medical applications are witnessing a demand surge, primarily due to stockpiling, increase in delivery services, and high healthcare-focused activities.

Due to the weak demand scenario, the global industrial production is likely to ebb in 2020, before it witnesses a rise in 2021, Icria added.

For some basic chemicals like caustic soda, soda ash, methanol, among others, Icria expects that volumes are likely to be impacted by 300-500 basis points (bps) following the weak demand scenario. "Margins will be impacted by a decline in capacity utilisation levels resulting in lower absorption of fixed costs and an increase in overheads such as freight costs this fiscal..." Icria Ratings Senior Vice President and Group Head - Corporate Ratings, K Ravichandran said.

28 of 28 of Cheestakodur Right Main Canal From Km. 0.425 to 2.675									
Village: Pembarthi Mandal: Janagana District: Janagana									
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of the	Type of Land	Area (Acres)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks			
1	40	Patra	Dry	0-004	Bypass (0-004)				
2	41	Patra	Dry	0-008	Bypass (0-011)				
3	42	Patra	Dry	0-002	Manga Marthava W/o Marthava (0-002)				
4	61	Patra	Dry	0-037	Manga Yadaiah S/o Marthava (0-037)				
5	62	Patra	Dry	0-008	Manga Srinivas S/o Marthava (0-008)				
6	60	Patra	Dry	0-023	Krishnamacharyulu (1-104)				
7	45	Patra	Dry	0-025	Manga Aliah S/o Peda Balaiah (0-025)				
8	44	Patra	Dry	0-001	Krishnamacharyulu (0-001)				
9	43	Patra	Dry	0-030	Manga Upalash S/o Chima Balaiah (0-031)				
10	46	Patra	Dry	1-10	Plots (0-10)				
11	47	Patra	Dry	0-027	Overal Balaiah S/o Harkishna Plots (0-027)				
12	48	Patra	Dry	0-021	Plots (0-04)				
13	52	Patra	Dry	0-30	Plots (0-03)				
14	53	Patra	Dry	1-26	Plots (0-014)				
15	54	Patra	Dry	0-19	Plots (0-004)				
16	81	Patra	Dry	0-21	Bernadeth Ananthu v/o Munda Reddy				
17	82	Patra	Dry	1-03	MD. Saleemgani S/o Inam				
18	86	Patra	Dry	0-011	MD. Saleemgani S/o Inam				
19	85	Patra	Dry	0-011	MD. Saleemgani S/o Inam				
20	87	Patra	Dry	0-12	MD. Saleemgani S/o Inam				
21	91	Patra	Dry	0-05	MD. Saleemgani S/o Inam				
22	89	Patra	Dry	0-00	MD. Saleemgani S/o Inam				
Total 11-13									
Janagana Total : 2-094									
Pembarthi Total: 11-13									
Grand Total: 13-194									

Village : Janagana

Mandal: Janagana

District: Janagana

Trees		
Syno	Variety	Number
---	---	---

Structures		
Syno	Type	Plinth area
---	---	---

Trees		
Syno	Variety	Number
81	Mango	6
81	Teak	38
91	Mango	6

Structures		
Syno	Type	Plinth area
87	Teen Shad	

31 of 31 of Cheestakodur Right Main Canal From Km. 0.000 to 2.500									
Village: Janagana Mandal: Janagana District: Janagana									
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of the	Type of Land	Area (Acres)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks			
1	303	Patra	Dry	0-14	Plots (0-11 3/4)				
2	304	Patra	Dry	4-36	Plots (0-14 3/4)				
3	307	Patra	Dry	0-08	Plots (0-02 1/2)				
4	306	Patra	Dry	1-21	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
5	305	Patra	Dry	0-08	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
6	317	Patra	Dry	1-12	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
7	315	Patra	Dry	1-28	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
8	316	Patra	Dry	0-11	Plots (0-11)				
9	212	Patra	Dry	2-07	Plots (0-11)				
10	213	Patra	Dry	0-06	Plots (0-11)				
Total 14-03									

31 of 31 of Cheestakodur Right Main Canal From Km. 0.000 to 2.500									
Village: Janagana Mandal: Janagana District: Janagana									
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of the	Type of Land	Area (Acres)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks			
1	303	Patra	Dry	0-14	Plots (0-11 3/4)				
2	304	Patra	Dry	4-36	Plots (0-14 3/4)				
3	307	Patra	Dry	0-08	Plots (0-02 1/2)				
4	306	Patra	Dry	1-21	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
5	305	Patra	Dry	0-08	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
6	317	Patra	Dry	1-12	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
7	315	Patra	Dry	1-28	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
8	316	Patra	Dry	0-11	Plots (0-11)				
9	212	Patra	Dry	2-07	Plots (0-11)				
10	213	Patra	Dry	0-06	Plots (0-11)				
Total 14-03									

31 of 31 of Cheestakodur Right Main Canal From Km. 0.000 to 2.500									
Village: Janagana Mandal: Janagana District: Janagana									
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of the	Type of Land	Area (Acres)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks			
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4	306	Patra	Dry	1-21	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
5	305	Patra	Dry	0-08	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
6	317	Patra	Dry	1-12	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
7	315	Patra	Dry	1-28	Plots (0-00 1/4)				
8	316	Patra	Dry	0-11	Plots (0-11)				
9	212	Patra	Dry	2-07	Plots (0-11)				
10	213	Patra	Dry	0-06	Plots (0-11)				
Total 14-03									

					Plots (0-00 1/4)	
					Karri Yadagiri S/o Boorappa (1-36)	
					Karri Mallappa (0-37)	
					Jitto Yadagiri S/o Isiah	
					Jitto Mallappa S/o Isiah (0-45)	

I ensure content that you can watch with family: PRAJAKTA

YouTube sensation and influencer Prajakta Koli, popularly known for videos she creates for her channel *MostlySane*, says that at no point would she want her viewers to put on their headphones or pause her videos if someone older walked into the room. The 27-year-old has become a top YouTuber with over 5.74 million subscribers as on October 1, 2020. In a candid interview with *IANSLife*, Koli shares more about her process of content creation and lockdown inspiration for her channel. Read excerpts:

Q: What kind of content do you think works best with Indian viewers? Walking the tightrope between dumbing-down content and refining your content with time, how do you find a common denominator?

A: Any piece of content that people can relate and identify to is what works the best. It is not something you will get your pulse on from the moment you start creating content, however, through trial and error you will eventually get an understanding of content and how people will react to it. Audience behaviour is extremely dynamic in our country and you will never really know what is going to work for sure. Over time however, you get a fair idea of what direction works best for your target audience.

Q: While we're at it, please share how you shape your content keeping in mind the region, since everyone from Mumbaikars to the Indian diaspora watches you?

A: I keep a diary with me where I add things that I find funny or humorous in everyday life situations and keep building on those ideas. When I usually script my videos I ensure I add instances and situations that happen to every family and not something that is region specific. Also, the language of delivery plays a very important role when making content.

Q: If you had to name the three must-have ingredients in a Prajakta Koli video.

A: One thing I ensure is that I create content that you can watch with your family. At no point would I want my viewers to put on their headphones or pause it if their parents or someone elder walked into the room. Second, I like my videos to be as relatable as possible. And third, is to try and make new ideas come to life every week.

Q: You're diversifying your mediums, and your audience is loving that. What are your plans ahead?

A: I have been someone who has always made

plans and stuck with it, but when my plan A didn't work out and I took a leap of faith and started creating content I decided to go with the flow and take on each day as it comes. But there definitely will be more acting and writing in the future.

Q: The pandemic brought with it many hardships, but also a lot of content inspiration. Please share about both in your work's context.

A: When the lockdown started my biggest fear was how will I still keep putting out content as I was so used to working with my team and relied on them heavily. Luckily, things worked out and I was able to maintain my weekly release schedule. With the lockdown I got more time to think about new content and implement them which people loved so I am thankful in a way that the lockdown happened and I could churn out more content pieces than I would have otherwise.

Q: How has your audience changed during the lockdown, since most YouTubers registered a manifold increase in views.

A: Well, the audiences haven't diversified that much since the lockdown; it is just the audience behaviour has changed wherein the viewers have started consuming more content on the internet than compared to pre-lockdown.

Q: Your thoughts on malpractices like buying views on YouTube, which must be a fair platform.

A: Major platforms like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube allow you to boost your posts and videos to reach a wider audience, this is legitimate and doesn't violate any norms of social media, any other means of getting views should not be encouraged or indulged in.



When the lockdown started my biggest fear was how will I still keep putting out content as I was so used to working with my team and relied on them heavily. Luckily, things worked out and I was able to maintain my weekly release schedule. With the lockdown I got more time to think about new content and implement them which people loved so I am thankful in a way that the lockdown happened and I could churn out more content pieces than I would have otherwise.

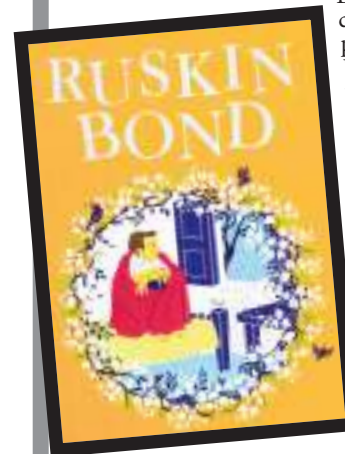
Books that spotlight children's mental health

In these unprecedented times, when isolation, fatigue, gloom and the fear of losing a beloved has also come to grip children, taking care of their mental health is of paramount importance.

Here's a list of books that address the various emotions children struggle with, and can be companions to them during the hard times.

'The Room on the Roof' by Ruskin Bond

A classic coming-of-age story, which has held generations of readers spellbound! Rusty, a sixteen-year-old Anglo-Indian boy, is orphaned and has to live with his English guardian in the claustrophobic European part in Dehra Dun. Unhappy with the strict ways of his guardian, Rusty runs away from home to live with his Indian friends. Plunging for the first time into the dream-bright world of the bazaar, Hindu festivals and other aspects of Indian life, Rusty is enchanted, and is lost forever to the prim proprieties of the European community. Written when the author was himself seventeen, this moving story of love and friendship, with a new introduction and illustrations will be enjoyed by a whole new generation of readers.



'Who Stole Bhaiya's Smile?' by Sanjana Kapur

Bhaiya does not feel like playing these days. Could it be because of his new monster friend Dukduk, who is always hanging around him. No one in the family takes Bhaiya seriously. But Chiru knows there is more than what meets the eye. A story about the lingering effects of depression. The book is illustrated by Sunaina Coelho.

'Hearts Do Matters' by Anita Myers

What the world needs now in these times is love. 'Hearts Do Matter' supports children and adults through the losses and grief in their life. It teaches us that even when loved ones cannot be with us, we can feel their presence in our hearts. The new release is a beautiful picture book about a little girl who has a very special relationship with her mother. Her mother promised she would always be with her, and she shows in the book that she kept her promise in the most loving way.

'EMOTIONAL CONNECT IS WHAT THE AUDIENCES WANT'

Who knew a trained professional dancer will one day be known for his bad guy roles in the Telugu television industry and win numerous awards for it! Shaik Nagul Sharif aka Aadarsh, who defined cruel characters both in television and films with utmost 'sincerity' talks to *The Pioneer's* SHIKHA DUGGAL on his journey, the new normal, OTT, and more



Be it his series of *Abhishekam* on ETV, *Agnipoolu* on Gemini, *Swathichinukulu* on ETV, *Gruhapravesham* on Zee Telugu, etc., he is immensely devoted to his characters. Acting constitutes a major part of his life and he wants to contribute more to this society in his own entertaining way.

Accepting the new normal

Now we have exclusive OTT platforms to showcase our creativity. It helps create a viewership for quality content, so why go to a multiplex? The lockdown saw many big-ticket films releasing online and this is becoming the new normal. However, they can always co-exist. Film or web series, both tend to reach a wider audience because of OTT, also it's viable. This move is a step towards optimism and millions of people are associated with it directly or indirectly, so for me, OTT is a likelier choice than cinema currently.

Mass approval of audiences

Telugu serials have come a long way, earlier viewers would wait for the weekend to watch their favourite soap opera. There are attractive content and a unique theme that we follow these days with the sole purpose of entertaining viewers. I am of the opinion that socially driven soap operas hardly sustain in our television industry because I have seen people changing the channel saying 'Oh, we know what's going to happen next and the outcome of it.' What do they actually want? An emotional connection. Sometimes our stories revolve around immortal beings having a godly dimension, dressed for glory and extreme dramatisa-

tion, yet they wouldn't switch the channel! We are progressing with love stories, comedy, and portraying strong, beautiful women on screen.

Not to be forgotten

A production house known for emphasising mostly on female-centric roles, one fine day decides to consider a male actor to be their protagonist, and by god's grace that was me. The role in *Agnipoolu* on Gemini as Ganga can never be forgotten. Some roles are really close to our hearts and this was one of them. It helped me transform my career graph by offering complexities, inspiring me, standing against the odds as a hero because I am known for doing villainous roles in the television fraternity.

Dearest Jayalalitha ji

In the times when Jayalalitha ji was at the top of her game in the entertainment industry, I got a chance to work with her for over two years in a serial. So humble, so dignified and so punctual! In comparison with today's times, where I witnessed many actresses throwing unnecessary tantrums before setting up the scene, Jayalalitha ji was something else despite being a superstar. She used to be instantly ready for the shot! She brought with herself a universe of creativity, I miss her.

Resuming shooting

I am in favour of these new SOPs, we are maintaining social distancing to protect our cast and crew. Hygiene measures are a must! Special camera angles are being used to make characters appear closer due to social distancing. The new normal only allows limited people in the area of a shooting, there are no intimate scenes and make-up is applied with utmost caution.

Telugu serials have come a long way, earlier viewers would wait for the weekend to watch their favourite soap opera. There are attractive content and a unique theme that we follow these days with the sole purpose of entertaining viewers.



Good news for all you fashion lovers, the famous lifestyle & fashion showcase of Sutraa is back, presenting its special Diwali edition featuring designer wear, jewellery, home décor, etc., with the safest shopping experience on 27th & 28th October 2020 at Hotel Taj Krishna, Hyderabad.

Photos by **SV Charv**

WHAT'S THIS ALL OVER YOUR PAPER?

KETCHUP!

NATHAN BALL
© 1998 NATHAN BALL

IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU

THAT IS SAD

GARFIELD

SUCH AN UNADORNED
PLAINNESS, SHE IS
SIMPLE AND HONEST,
UNADORNED BY
EMBELLISHMENTS

NB LA BLA
NB LA BLA
NB LA BLA
NB LA BLA
NB LA BLA
NB LA BLA
NB LA BLA

EXCESS IS
OT NANCY,
HE IS BALD

NOTHING BE
THE KEY
MAKE IT
NANCY C

MANY GR
WORKS C
BE WRIT
TRYING T
SIMPLICITY

I GUESS TIME IS ALL RELATIVE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. TIME DOES GO SLOWER WHEN I'M AROUND MY RELATIVES.

©1998 KATZ PUBLICATIONS, INC.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

5	9	2	1	7	3	8	6	4
4	7	1	8	6	9	3	5	2
6	3	8	2	5	4	1	9	7
1	4	9	3	2	7	5	8	6
8	5	7	4	9	6	2	1	3
2	6	3	5	1	8	7	4	9
7	8	6	9	3	1	4	2	5
3	1	5	6	4	2	9	7	8
9	2	4	7	8	5	6	3	1

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

1 Baking instructions
3 Factual
7 Play this with two sticks
8 Rub to a shine
10 Young hen
13 Fake document
16 Extra-intelligent person
17 Finished
18 Playthings
19 Almost

1 Travel by horse
2 Captured
4 Water from the sky
5 Breathe out



Nithya to headline a Telugu web series

NAGARAJ GOUD

After receiving rich accolades for her turn in Amazon Prime's *Breathe: Into the Shadows*, Nithya Menen is set for another show with the streaming giant. This time around though, the show will mark her digital debut in Telugu, we learnt exclusively. According to a well-placed source, the show will be produced by Swapna Dutt, while actor-turned-filmmaker Avasarala Srinivas is acting as the showrunner.

The source says, "Swapna briefed the show's idea to Nithya and the actress loved it. It is family drama interspersed with humour, highlighting the intricacies of relationships and middle-class values. It will spread over eight episodes, with each episode running into 25 minutes. The script has been

locked recently but the writing team will go through it once again before the team swings into full-fledged pre-production."

The source adds that the show will mark the directorial debut of cinematographer/short filmmaker Gomtesh Upadhye. "He is directing it from a story of well-known writer Balabhadrapatruni Ramani. The project is set in the Godavari belt and the team will be undertaking a recce shortly to finalise the locations. The music director and cinematographer are yet to be confirmed, so is the supporting cast. Swapna is looking to start the production in December or in January and wrap it up in one-go," the source concludes.



Akasaam Nee Haddhu Ra is very close to my heart: Suriya

Actor-producer Suriya says his upcoming *Soorai Pottru* (*Akasaam Nee Haddhu Ra* in Telugu) is a special one, and the makers want to give the message that nothing can stop you from chasing your dreams if you are true to yourself.

The action drama is a fictionalised version of the book *Simply Fly* written on the life of Air Deccan founder Captain GR Gopinath. The trailer, which dropped on Monday, shows how a "rebel with an idea" aims to make flying affordable for people.

"*Soorai Pottru* is a very special movie for me and one that's very close to my heart. With this film, we want to bring out the message that nothing in this world can stop you from chasing your dreams if you are true to yourself and dedicated to the task. We hope that the audience will continue to shower us with their unwavering support," said Suriya.

Helmed by Sudha Kongara, the film also stars Mohan Babu, Paresh Rawal and Aparna Balamurali.

"*Soorai Pottru* has given me a chance to work with incredible Sudha ma'am and versatile actors. This is like a dream come true for me. I have worked really hard for this role and it required a lot of physical and mental preparation to get into the skin of the character. The film is an inspiration to all those who dare to dream, by sharing a story of synergy, love, hardships and one man's dream to fly," said Aparna.

The film is produced by Suriya's 2D Entertainment and co-produced by Guneet Monga's Sikhya Entertainment. It will premiere on November 12 on Amazon Prime Video.



FIRST LOOK

The look of Nandamuri Taraka Ratna's from *Saaradhi*, his next, was unveiled on Tuesday. He will be seen as a Kho kho coach in the film, directed by Jaakata Ramesh. A Kadapa -set sports drama with commercial bells and whistles, the film's shooting is over except for three days of patch work, which the director intends to wrap up in Hyderabad shortly. TV girl Kona Sasitha is cast opposite Taraka Ratna.



Actor Rajasekhar, who has been battling COVID-19, is doing better. Citi Neuro Centre, which has been treating him for the past 10 days, on Tuesday said that he has been weaned off non-invasive ventilatory support in the ICU. He received plasma therapy and cytosorb device therapy as a part of his ongoing treatment, the hospital informed.

The hospital added that the actor's clinical condition "is better". "He is responding to treatment and continues to be closely monitored by our clinical team," a statement from the hospital read.

The actor's wife Jeevitha, who has been admitted to the same hospital for COVID-19, was discharged last Saturday after her latest test proved to be negative.

In a career spanning more than 35 years, Rajasekhar, known for his angry young man image and forthright nature, has been part of memorable films like *Prathigatana*, *Vandemataram*, *Araksham*, *Magaadu*, *Anna*, *Maa Annaya* and *Simharasi* among others. His last film was Prasanth Varma's *Kalki*, which underperformed at the box-office.

He will be next seen in the Telugu remake of Malayalam hit *Joseph*.

Rajasekhar's condition improves



Another actor from Krishna-Vijaya Nirmala family

After Ashok Galla, another member of Krishna-Vijaya Nirmala family is set for his T-town debut. Sharan 'The Light' Kumar, grandson of the late Vijaya Nirmala, is debuting with a romantic drama, which marks the directorial debut of Ramachandra Vattikutti. Presented by Manvitha and Kushala Kumar Bulemani, the film is a production venture of Srilatha B Venkat and Venkat Bulemani. It was launched in Hyderabad earlier this week.

As Nareesh VK sounded the clapper-board for the first shot, superstar Krishna directed it.

The script was handed over to Ramachandra by actor Sudheer Babu and his wife Priya. Jayasudha, Sai Tej, Nawin Vijaya Krishna were among others who graced the muhurat.

Speaking later, Krishna congratulated Sharan on debuting with a promising film. "A number of artists

PRESENTED BY MANVITHA AND KUSHALA KUMAR BULEMANI, THE FILM IS A PRODUCTION VENTURE OF SRILATHA B VENKAT AND VENKAT BULEMANI.

from our family have won the appreciation of the audience. I sincerely wish that Sharan, too, gets their love. I wish the producer and the director all the best," he said.

Happy to be blessed by Krishna, Sharan said that if it wasn't for Nareesh, the launch wouldn't have been possible. He added the script has been worked upon for the past 18 months and that he and the director have travelled through it.

The producers informed that the film will go in front of the cameras from November-end, with an intention to wrap it up in a start-to-finish schedule. The likes of Gemini Suresh, Jabardasth Trinath, Cyrus Shava Khan, Akula Gopal and D Satish are playing supporting roles.



PATAAS GIRL FOR SRIKANTH

The makers of Srikanth's next, *Maranamrudangam*, have finalized Pataas girl Shrut Sodhi as the leading lady. Announcing her casting on Tuesday, producer Dr Kanchapuram said the film will roll from November. "The story is tailor-made for Srikanth and I hope it will give him a break. Director Venkatesh Rebba has developed it keeping in mind the taste of contemporary audiences," he said.

Speaking about the project earlier, Srikanth said the title is apt for the story. "I like the title a lot. I've watched Chiranjeevi garu's *Maranamrudangam* multiple times but our film has no relation to his film. I liked the story and I've signed it after listening to multiple narrations. I will be seen in dual roles," he had said.

Anand, who has composed music for Charmme Kaur-starrer *Mantra* last decade, is on board to render tunes. Thulasi Das has penned the film's story.

